Hafa Adai!

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PSS to lawmakers: We got a 3-pct. cut, not $3M increase. PAGE 8

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POLL RESULTS

Do you support a proposal to suspend the 50-cent minimum wage increase that will take effect this September?

Yes	63
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Inos to seek 902 talks

» Letter for Obama now being prepared
» Tinian mayor: Separate Tinian, Pagan EIS

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos is initiating Covenant 902 consultations with President Barack Obama to discuss the U.S. military's plans to develop live-fire training areas on Pagan and Tinian and the federal takeover of local immigration, 37 years since the establishment of the unique relationship between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States.

Inos

Inos said he will be sending a letter to Obama this week, asking the president to appoint his representative for the 902 talks.

Section 902 of the CNMI's Covenant with the U.S. allows for periodic consultations between the Commonwealth and federal governments "on all matters affecting the relationship between them."

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Schweiger is AG's Cup champion

» MCS gets Exemplary Achievement award for dominating contest

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Mount Carmel School remained unbeatable in the annual Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition after the school's bet, Anastasia Schweiger, was named champion Friday at the Supreme Court.

Schweiger is the 15th student to top the contest for Mount Carmel School, which was also presented with the first

See SCHWEIGER on Page 4

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Attorney General's Cup champion Anastasia Schweiger and her coach, Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, are all smiles as they proudly hold the prestigious AG's Cup Perpetual Trophy after the awarding ceremonies Friday at the Supreme Court. MCS was also bestowed the competition's first-ever Exemplary Achievement Award for dominating the competition's 29-year history with 15 championships in the bag.

KINDERGARTEN-TO-GRADE 2 DIVISION

Eucon's Pillarina tops state Math Court

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

An 8-year-old second grader from the Eucon International School is this year's biggest winner in the Public School System's Statewide Math Court Competition after winning the gold medal in the Kindergarten-to-Grade 2 division.

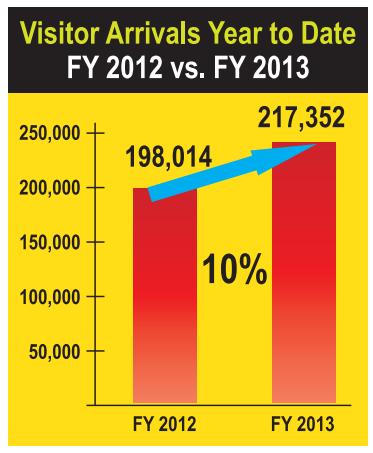
Allia Raine Pillarina, the daughter of Alex and Celia Pillarina, bested some 30 other contenders from public and private schools in the Commonwealth during

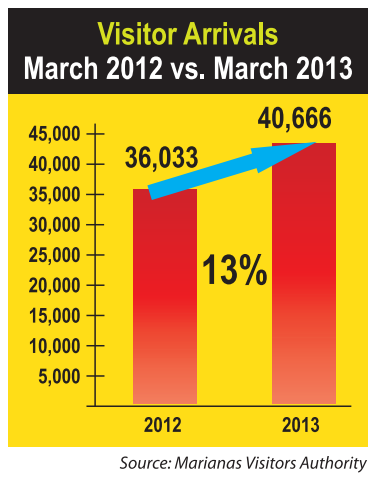
See PILLARINA on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The overall winners in the recently concluded Public School System Statewide Math Court Competition for K-2 division pose for a group photo after the awarding ceremonies. From right are gold medal awardee Allia Raine Pillarina from Eucon International School; bronze medal awardee Joseph Victor Jiminez, first grader from Eucon; fourth-placer Katie Choi of Saipan Community School; silver medalist Bridgit Tabuena from Dandan Elementary; and fifth place awardee Mary Grace Caras of San Antonio Elementary School. ➤

Visitor arrivals up 13 pct. in March





Source: Marianas Visitors Authority

March visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands were up 13 percent compared to March 2012. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota reached 40,666 in March compared to 36,033 in March 2012.

"We continue to see strong recovery and growth in arrivals from all of our major markets. This is good news for the local economy and the community," said MVA managing

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BIBA Marianas!

EVEN AFTER 15 YEARS OF EXISTENCE

TASTE OF MARIANAS continues to sizzle

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Fifteen years and counting, yet the Taste of the Marianas continues to be one of the biggest crowd-drawers among the signature events of the CNMI's tourism body, the Marianas Visitors Authority.

All roads led to the American Memorial Park last Saturday, with the 15th Taste of Marianas opening to a jam-packed crowd that came not only to sample what the islands' best cooks have to offer but also partake in the CNMI's diverse culture.

MVA executive director Perry Tenorio said the event, which transforms the AMP grounds into an international festival of food and beer garden each year, continues to grow, both in terms of participation and performances.

The Taste of Marianas is part of the MVA's "Visit99" campaign that commenced in 1999. The event was developed to allow visitors and locals to mingle and enjoy each other's culture.

Tourism remains the CNMI's major industry and Tenorio is happy to announce that it is starting to pick up anew.

Tenorio hopes the annual celebration will help further boost arrivals from its key markets: Japan, Korea, China, Russia, and others. Proof of this is the pre-selling of "tokens" by its travel partners from these key markets.

Tenorio described the Taste of the Marianas as a community event that brings everybody on the table. He said both locals and visitors look forward to being a part of the celebration every year.

MONETH G. DEPOSA
Tourists and residents check out the food booths at the 2013 Taste of the Marianas Food Festival and Beer Garden during Saturday's opening ceremonies.

For brothers Tsubasa, Eito, and Takuru Susazawa from Japan, their first-time visit to the CNMI was made memorable by their fun experience at the Taste of Marianas.

The three brothers are here for a short vacation, primarily to experience the nature and beauty of the islands' beaches and historic sites.

While roaming the festival grounds, the brothers enjoyed munching on the islands' popular chicken *kelaguen* and were amazed at the talents showcased by the Saipan Awaodori Team.

They told *Saipan Tribune* that they plan to return next year, hopefully in time for the next Taste of Marianas.

Seen also enjoying the festivities were Korean couple Ku Kachung and Jung Sukahyen, who are also first-timers to the islands. Amazed at the extensive number of dishes on display, they nevertheless did not find it difficult to find their favorite dishes. They told *Saipan Tribune* that their visit to the Taste of Marianas will definitely not be their last.

Festival vendors also expect their cash registers to ring up a larger revenue this year.

D'Elegance manager Irene Santiago said the Taste of Marianas is always a good source of revenue for the company but they expect this year's sales to be even more robust.

To sustain its strong showing every year, Santiago said they make sure not only to perfect their specialty dishes but they also come up with an international menu for visitors.

Among D'Elegance's most popular dishes are the special lechon (roasted pig) and their sure-fire hits, barbecues and *kelaguen*.

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores said the Taste of Marianas brings together families, friends, and the whole community.

Crowd estimates, he said, is always in the thousands—clear proof that this must continue for generations to come.

Saturday night's festival start was opened by Gov. Eloy S. Inos and some dignitaries and government officials.

JTB travel agents visit to support Osaka flights

Nine travel agents of JTB made a familiarization tour of Saipan last week to gain information that will help them attract visitors to fill direct flights from Osaka.

During their visit, the group toured award-winning Managaha, enjoyed a cultural dinner show at Fiesta Resort & Spa and the Las Vegas-style Saipan SandCastle Cocktail show, took a sightseeing tour, visit Coconut Beach Bar at Kanoa Resort, and met with the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA).

"With the re-launch of direct flights from Osaka to Saipan on Dec. 21, 2012, and running through the end of this month, FAM tours are an important tool for educating travel agents and media on what the Northern Marianas has to offer individuals looking to make an overseas trip," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "It would be ideal to have year-round flights from Osaka, but in order for airlines to do that, there must be a demand."

The group also conducted hotel inspections of Fiesta Resort & Spa and Hyatt Regency Saipan, where they lodged during their visit.

The agents, representing JTB West, JTB West Kansai, and JTB World Vacations West Japan, arrived on March 4 and departed March 7. ***(MVA)***

Travel agents of JTB and Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman, right, have dinner at the Hyatt Regency Saipan on March 6, 2013, as part of the group's FAM tour of Saipan. MVA

Tourism Topics

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

Hana Tour & Mode Tour Golf Tournament

Under the **Golf Production Incentive Program** of the **Marianas Visitors Authority**, **Hana Tour** and **Mode Tour Busan Branch** attracted over 100 golfers combined to the Northern Marianas in March 2013.

The program offers financial incentives, **Marianas Guidebooks** and island maps to participating travel agents who attract a minimum number of golfers. Hana Tour staged the **6th Saipan Golf Challenge Tour** with 68 golfers on March 6-11 at **Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort**, which **Mode Tour** 40 golfers for hosted the **Busan Amateur Golf Tournament** on March 20-24 at the same course.

So far this fiscal year, over 65,000 Korean visitors have visited the Northern Marianas.

Lunde named NMC Faculty of the Year in Charter Day fete

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A longtime teacher under the health and physical education program of the Northern Marianas College was hailed as the college's Instructional Faculty of the Year during NMC's Charter Day celebration on Friday.

RELATED NEWS
See related photos on Page 16

The Board of Regents and president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., presented the prestigious award to Lisa A. Lunde, who has been with the college for more than 10 years now.

She received a plaque of appreciation, a $200 cash prize, and a reserved parking space for the full year in honor of her accomplishment.

An emotional Lunde told *Saipan Tribune* that the recognition was a big surprise.

"This is shocking…but nice!" she said after the awarding rites.

This was Lunde's first time to be nominated and receive the honor.

Despite her busy schedule in the classroom, Lunde is also involved with the college's accreditation committee, organizes extracurricular activities, and works with other departments in course offerings. Her work ethic, according to NMC, speaks volumes in promoting the goals and overall mission of the college.

This year's Non-Instructional Faculty of the Year is two-time awardee Gregorio P. Sablan, who works at the college library. He was also presented a plaque of recognition, cash prize, and a full-year reserved parking lot.

NMC said that Sablan is a prime example of dedication and hard work, being a recipient of the same award in 2010. Sablan was described as always helpful and welcoming. He also worked on several committees including Cash for College, graduation, Start Smart seminars, golf tournaments, and Believe campaign.

Frankie M. Eliptico, NMC's director of external relations office, is the newly minted Supervisor of the Year. He has been working for the college for about five years now, starting with the Office of Institutional Advancement (now the external relations office) as its marketing manager until he became as its director.

"I am really humbled by this recognition knowing that there is a great number of equally hardworking people at the college. I am very lucky to be given this award and I am very happy," Eliptico told *Saipan Tribune*.

Adjudged Student of the Year is 21-year-old Richard V. Pizarro, a graduating student under the computer applications and business management program. Surprised by the recognition, Pizarro said he is grateful for the support he gets from his peers. He plans to pursue his studies in Guam this year. For his fellow students, Pizarro had these words: "Don't give up and always stay positive!"

The Staff of the Year recognition went to Jennifer F. Del Avellano, who works at the college's admission and records for over four years now.

Inos to revive CUC board

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said Saturday that he will start nominating this week qualified individuals to serve on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors, which will be revived years after CUC has been placed directly under the governor or his representative's control.

"I'm poised to send in the nominees for the CUC board. Once we do that, we don't need any more CUC emergency declaration," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* at the opening of the Taste of the Marianas in Garapan on Saturday night.

He said the nominations will be sent as early as this week.

The governor has been extending many of the provisions of an executive order declaring a state of emergency for CUC, that his predecessor, Benigno R. Fitial, started.

In March, Inos restored the powers of the Public Utilities Commission, which has regulatory oversight over utilities entities. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

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Medical referral now under the governor's office

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Through an executive order, Gov. Eloy S. Inos transferred the Medical Referral Program from under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to the Office of the Governor for "fiscal prudence" and a "more efficient" operation given CHC's financial and administrative state.

The Legislature may modify or disapprove the move within 60 days from receipt of the May 2 executive order.

The Medical Referral Program was previously part of the Department of Public Health. When DPH became a corporation pursuant to Public Law 16-51, the program passed to and was organized under and as part of CHC.

"That's something that kind of slipped by everyone. And so we wanted to put it where it used to be and maybe where it should be," the governor told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the opening of the 15th Annual Taste of the Marianas in Garapan on Saturday night.

Although CHC personnel have a role in determining who needs to be referred off-island for treatment, Inos said it is "unnecessary and inefficient" to have the Medical Referral Program under CHC "when it is not fiscally responsible for the program operations.

"It is fiscally prudent and more efficient for the Office of the Governor to assume operation of the Off-Island Medical Referral Program due to CHC's precarious financial and administrative state," Inos said in his Executive Order No. 2013-09 dated May 2.

All program records and property are also transferred, along with unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, allotments or other funds available.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) said the impact on the medical referral program of such reorganization remains unclear.

Deleon Guerrero raised concerns about the manner in which the medical referral committee decides whom to refer to off-island medical providers and how soon, given that an individual known to him passed away on the day he was originally scheduled for referral to a Philippine hospital. A relative of the deceased pleaded with the medical referral program to send him earlier, but even that came too late, the speaker said.

PILLARINA

From Page 1

rigorous rounds held at Dandan Elementary School.

Allia was a silver awardee in the Math Court regional contest last year.

Pillarina described her Math Court experience as "very rewarding." She told *Saipan Tribune* that mathematics is one of her favorite subjects since first grade. She vowed to repeat the feat in next year's competition.

Math Court coordinator and Dandan Elementary School vice principal Reo Arriola said the K-2 division season registered about 30 students who qualified for the statewide competition this year.

Other big winners included silver medalist Bridgit Tabuena from Dandan Elementary School; bronze medal winner Joseph Victor Jimenez, a first grader from Eucon; fourth placer Katie Choi of Saipan Community School; and fifth placer Mary Grace Caras of San Antonio Elementary School.

This year, PSS tried something new for the K-5 division. It created an extension site of the competition on Tinian so that more students can compete. In previous years, Tinian students would fly to Saipan to compete but that was seen as too costly.

"We have a Tinian coordinator and a new member of the Math Court admin team, Celina Farrell, a teacher at Tinian Elementary School, who graciously took the initiative and asked us to create a Tinian testing site. She took charge of that site, with the assistance of myself and another member, flying out every event to Tinian to run events on the same day as Saipan events," Arriola told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Math Court competition had two regular meets in February and March, and those who placed in either one of the events were eligible to compete in the regionals, held on both Saipan and Tinian.

"We are very happy with the overall turnout, with over 600 students competing from over 17 private/public schools on Saipan, while Tinian averaged over 100 students from three schools in the regular meets," Arriola said.

In the K-2 division, the top 17 percent of students from both sites made it to the statewide competition and the top students from Tinian flew to Saipan for the statewide competition.

Meantime, the regional contest for the grades 3-5 division is slated on May 11 at Oleai Elementary School while the statewide competition is scheduled for May 18 at Dandan Elementary School.

INOS

From Page 1

Either party can initiate the consultations. The representatives to these discussions are appointed directly by the CNMI governor and the U.S. president.

"Major issues are military and then our ongoing relationship under the new immigration [law]. We still have a few wrinkles that still need to discuss," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* at the Saturday night opening of the 15th Annual Taste of the Marianas in Garapan.

The governor said these would require "a different level of negotiation as opposed to" working at a department level.

"Not that we're not getting anything [in department level talks]. We work well, but I think we need to move it up to the next level and that would be 902. It's something provided for in the Covenant," he said.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) said yesterday that the proposed use of Pagan for the U.S. military requires a higher level of discussion, which is through Covenant 902 talks.

Deleon Guerrero said the U.S. Department of Defense's 99-year lease of some two-thirds of Tinian land was negotiated through the Covenant and the same should be done on the proposed use of Pagan for military training.

"Rather than negotiate with the military, the CNMI should bring this matter directly to the attention of the U.S. president," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

Deleon Guerrero said he has been recommending to the governor to consider initiating 902 talks with the president since the U.S. military first announced its plans to use Pagan.

"DoD could invoke the eminent domain provision as a fallback if negotiations fail but there would be compensation that is fair and just. But we want to negotiate what that proper compensation is that is fair and just and agree to it. The use of Pagan and additional use for Tinian is an important issue that requires 902 talks," he added.

This early, some residents oppose the use of pristine Pagan for military live-fire training exercises.

Pagan has pozzolan deposits, other rich natural resources, and is among the biggest islands north of Saipan.

"How do you put a value on an island like Pagan? Besides the natural resources, there are other intangible value such as historic and prehistoric value," he added.

'Separate Tinian, Pagan study'

Meanwhile, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said the CNMI should request that the environmental impact study related to military plans for live-fire training ranges "be broken into two separate and distinct EIS studies, one focusing on Tinian and the other focusing on Pagan."

Dela Cruz said these are two unrelated actions and the Tinian range can operate independently of the Pagan range.

"Pagan could be the downfall of the proposed action on Tinian due to the unpopularity and complexity in leasing the island. If Pagan fails, then the entire EIS with Tinian would fail. After a lengthy and failed three-year EIS process, the Marine Corps would have to propose another island to replace Pagan (Palau/FSM/CNMI). This would require Tinian to go through an entire EIS process again," Dela Cruz said.

Immigration

Inos said he has yet to designate his special representative to the 902 talks. He said he wants to hear first what Obama has to say about his proposal to hold 902 discussions.

"It could be me, it could be somebody else... We may need consultants for that but we're mindful of the cost," he added.

A 2008 law placed CNMI immigration under federal control effective a year later. The transition period ends on Dec. 31, 2014, unless the U.S. Secretary Labor extends the transition period.

Without such extension, the CNMI could immediately lose access to over 12,000 skilled and professional foreign workers that the islands rely on for its tourism-based economy.

Inos cited some specific issues related to federalization of immigration, and this includes the manner in which some Customs and Border Protection personnel detailed in the CNMI process tourists and all other passengers entering the islands.

"It's just that the manner in which we receive these folks [tourists]. We just want them [CBP] to be more considerate in the manner in which they approach these folks when they come in," he said.

An uproar over CBP personnel's conduct, witnessed by a group of lawmakers returning from an overseas trip, led to a cultural sensitivity training among CBP personnel over a year ago.

"It should continue, it should be an ongoing thing," the governor added.

Inos said this will not be his first letter to Obama since becoming CNMI governor on Feb. 20.

The last time the CNMI government initiated 902 talks with the U.S. was in 2007 during then governor Benigno R. Fitial's administration.

Fitial initiated the 902 talks with the Bush administration in a bid to resolve differences in the federal and local governments' interpretation of Covenant provisions concerning immigration, minimum wage, and taxation.

VISITOR

From Page 1

director Perry Tenorio. "We are now projecting 7-percent growth in arrivals this fiscal year compared to last."

Arrivals from Japan in March rose 9 percent to 18,210 visitors, boosted by five charter flights from Nagoya. Forward booking levels from Japan for the next three months are looking somewhat weak due to the rapidly dropping Japanese yen, which is making travel to U.S. dollar-based destinations increasingly more expensive for Japanese, and due to the continuing threat from North Korea, which describes the Marianas/Guam as a potential target.

Arrivals from Korea were essentially unchanged from last year at 9,395 visitors. Asiana Airlines operated charter flights from Korea twice weekly using an Airbus 330 with 290 seats for the winter season from Jan. 10 to Mar. 29.

Meanwhile, arrivals from China posted another month of double-digit growth, rising 33 percent in March to 9,021 visitors, the second highest month of arrivals so far this fiscal year.

In conjunction with Century Tours, DFS Saipan, and other key China travel agents, the MVA China office launched a large-scale billboard, subway advertising, PR and travel trade campaign in Beijing in support of the Beijing flights and targeting the post-Lunar New Year low season. Given the success of the campaign, the MVA is now launching Phase 2 of the campaign to run from April to June.

Arrivals from Russia more than doubled in February, registering a 140-percent increase in arrivals to 1,648. The Northern Marianas now receives biweekly direct charter flights from Vladivostok since October and weekly charter flights from Khabarovsk since March.

SCHWEIGER

From Page 1

ever Exemplary Achievement Award for dominating the 29-year history of the AG's Cup.

MCS has been holding the perpetual AG's Cup Trophy for 15 years now, all under the guidance of its coach and now school president, Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

This year's champion is a high school senior and daughter of Tom and Rose Schweiger. Despite coming in fully prepared for the competition, Schweiger described her first year in the competition as "truly a nerve-wracking experience."

Schweiger got the approving nod of the 10-member panel of judges with a commanding argument opposing any plan to pursue economic development in the Northern Islands.

School-wide effort

Schweiger credited her school team for her victory, saying that Friday's success is "really a Mount Carmel School team effort"—from research to rehearsal to mentoring and guidance.

When asked how she came up with her arguments, Schweiger said: "I told my coach from the beginning that I want to come out respectful…as what my dad always taught me."

Schweiger's coach, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, said that winning the competition is always humbling for the school. The key to MCS victories, he revealed, is that the team approaches the contest every year with great humility.

"We never assumed that we are going to win. It's always harder to defend the title than it is to be an underdog. We always treat each year like it's our first time…and we have to work harder every year because the competition is getting much more impressive," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

Other winners

The competition's second best speaker award went to Mona Sierra Q. Manglona, a senior from Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior/Senior High School. Third place went to Hye Young Oh of Saipan Southern High School, while honorable mention honors went to Alina Ishikawa of Marianas Baptist Academy. Winners received cash and gift items.

Other contenders who were given certificates of appreciation included Angela Faith Mamaril from Grace Christian Academy-Saipan; Kyle David Manuel from Tinian High School; Irene Shanece Paul Torres from Kagman High School; and Joseph Cody Patris from Marianas High School.

Adding meaning to this year's AG's Cup competition was the presence of councilman Diego Kaipat, a native of the Northern Islands. As the event's inspirational speaker, Kaipat encouraged members of the electorate and community members to visit the chain of islets in the north to really "feel the heart" of the islanders who will be impacted by whatever plans and changes this government may have for their "homes."

Overwhelming turnout

Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas told *Saipan Tribune* that he was overwhelmed by the competition's turnout. He lauded the eight contenders for doing a fantastic job in speaking about the issue, in providing solutions to the problems that CNMI people are facing. San Nicolas hopes that the students' insights and opinion will be considered when policymakers deliberate on the issue.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos saluted each competitor's efforts and welcomed their insights.

San Nicolas assured his commitment to sustaining the competition, which he described as a wonderful tradition where young people give interesting perspectives on issues the CNMI faces every day.

This year's speech competition featured the question: "Should the Commonwealth government enact legislation that encourages economic development in the Northern Islands and if development should be pursued, to what extent should the islands be preserved?"

The panel of judges included San Nicolas; U.S. Attorney Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, Guam Attorney General Leonardo Rapadas, Justice Alexandro Castro, Justice Robert Naraja, and attorneys Edward Manibusan, Rexford Kosack, Robert Torres, Pamela Brown, and Matthew Gregory.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
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IN celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week, we the CNMI State Board of Education and the Public School System through the Office of the Commissioner of Education, extend our profound appreciation to all of our teachers, teacher aides and instructors who work to ensure that our children learn the very best.

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Gov. Eloy S. Inos smiles for his mug shot shortly after he surrendered to the Jailhouse Lockdown fundraiser on Friday afternoon.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Inos 'charged' with being the most eligible bachelor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police officers did not find it difficult Friday to execute the "arrest warrant" against their top target—Gov. Eloy S. Inos—as the chief executive himself surrendered to the Jailhouse Lockdown, an annual fundraiser by the Department of Public Safety for its Law Enforcement Week activities.

"I surrender! I don't need a warrant!" the beaming Inos said shortly as he exited his car at 1:35pm and entered the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, the venue of this year's Jailhouse Lockdown.

» Governor surrenders to DPS Jailhouse Lockdown

After he was "booked and processed," a police officer escorted Inos before "Judge" Rosemond Santos.

Unaware of the "charges" filed against him, the governor offered a guess.

"I ate hamburger?" Inos asked, drawing laughs from mostly police officers.

Santos said the charges are for being too honest, not returning a car, and the most serious one—being the most eligible bachelor in the CNMI.

"Any takers? I want to see who's laughing!" Inos said as he turned to look at the women in the "courtroom."

Inos briefly talked with Sean White, the court-appointed counsel from the "Good People's Attorney." The governor told White he is willing to post a $75 cash bail.

Santos reminded the governor that the first charge is "being too honest."

"That's horrible!" Santos told Inos.

When Inos offered to post a $75 bail, Santos described the amount as "insulting to the court," considering the seriousness of the charges.

"Do you accept food stamp?" Inos asked.

Santos instead ordered Inos to pay a bail of $55 cash plus a karaoke song. She reminded him to sing just one song.

Inos said he can sing only if somebody will dance. Glenna Reyes, wife of Sen. Pete Reyes, gamely stood beside the governor, who belted *Wonderful Tonight.*

Santos later thanked Inos for his spirit.

Attorney Michael Evangelista also served as one of the "judges" in the fundraiser.

Police started serving the "arrest warrants" at 9am. The activity ended at 7pm.

Among those "arrested or surrendered" were Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores, Cabinet members, lawmakers, public officials, Public School System officials, businessmen, and other prominent community members.

The "arrested persons" were booked, photographed, and made to wear inmate shirts for their bail hearings.

DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau commander Jeffrey Olopai, one of the organizers of Jailhouse Lockdown, said they received a lot of positive feedback.

Olopai said they added karaoke this year as part of the bail condition to make the event more fun.

He said they also lowered the bail amount by keeping it below $50 so the "arrestees" won't feel that it's too high.

Proceeds will be used for the various expenses related to the Police Week celebration and other DPS community programs.

Olopai said that law enforcers will get together at the end of the activities and the DPS commissioner will then decide which community organization they will support with a donation.

The total amount raised will be known today, Monday. Last year, DPS raised over $4,500. DPS conducted the first Jailhouse Lockdown in 2010 as part of Police Week celebration.

Gordon named to Humanities Council

Gov. Eloy S. Inos appointed Pacific Development Inc. director Gordon I. Marciano to serve on the NMI Humanities Council.

The Senate's advice and consent is not required on Marciano's appointment, which the governor sent to the NMI Humanities Council on May 2.

Marciano will fill the unexpired term of Lilian A. Tenorio. His term as a council member begins immediately and will expire on April 23, 2014.

Marciano has been an active advocate and supporter of the humanities, arts, and culture in the CNMI for a number of years.

He said he has yet to see the governor's letter, sent care of the Humanities Council.

As a governor's appointee, Marciano is required to file a statement of financial interest with the Office of the Public Auditor. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

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GPPC protest on some $4M Cross Island project denied

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Division of Procurement and Supply Director Herman S. Sablan denied Tuesday GPPC Inc.'s protest on the estimated $4 million Cross Island Road improvement project phase II-B, and this could finally pave the way for the federally funded project's completion.

GPPC has 10 days after receipt of Sablan's April 30 decision to file an appeal with the Office of the Public Auditor.

A GPPC official told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the company "will consider our options, then determine our next action."

On March 18, the Department of Public Works issued a notice of intent to award the Cross Island or Back Road improvement project phase II-B contract to Hawaiian Rock Product Corp.

A day later, Sablan accepted GPPC's Feb. 6 protest effective March 20 "rather than delay the process by rejecting GPPC's premature protest and asking for its resubmission."

Sablan said only Hawaiian Rock and DPW submitted comments to the notice of protest.

There are two issues involved in GPPC's protest.

First, whether Hawaiian Rock was required to submit a form for local preference and whether its failure to do so meant its bid should have been multiplied by 115 percent, and it therefore was not presumptively the lowest bidder.

Second, whether Hawaiian Rock unfairly "gamed the system" by using its knowledge of GPPC's prior price per item bids for this solicitation to underbid GPPC.

On the first issue, Sablan said as the IFB made clear, local preference was impermissible due to the federal funding of the project. He said the language upon which GPPC seeks to rely is contained in Addendum 1.

But Sablan said it is clear these documents were not required to be attached to the bid and it is also clear that this language is in conflict with the initial IFB.

"If GPPC really believed there was some ambiguity, it could have requested a clarification but it did not. DPW should have reviewed the documents it released more assiduously, but its obvious reliance on a standard form is insufficient to warrant reversal of the Intent of Notice to Award," Sablan said in his four-page decision, a copy of which was only obtained yesterday.

On the second issue that Hawaiian Rock allegedly "gamed the system," Sablan said GPPC has the burden of proof in this instance "and has failed to meet it."

Sablan said Procurement and Supply is well aware of the risks inherent in cancellation of an IFB and uses cancellation as a last resort.

He said P&S has been advocating very careful review of solicitations by the agencies prior to issuance and the use of multiple addendums if necessary to clarify solicitations.

Sablan said the bidders' responsibility is to alert P&S to any perceived mistake or ambiguity. In this re-bid, the Requests for Information that formed part of Addendum 1 was detailed, specific, and ran four pages.

"GPPC's protest is hereby denied," Sablan added.

The Cross Island Road improvement project phase II-B is not the only DPW project under protest. Also under protest is the Saipan traffic light system upgrade and the Marpi landfill operations project.

Chamber of Commerce luncheon

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its monthly general membership luncheon meeting this Wednesday, May 8, 2013, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. Luncheon begins at 11:30am and the membership meeting begins at 12pm.

The month's speakers include Col. L. S. Loch, OIC, Marine Corps Activity Guam, and Maj. Chris Merrill. The speakers will present and discuss future Department of Defense plans for Tinian and Pagan for live-fire military training exercises.

"May 13, 2013, is the deadline for submitting comments to DoD's 'Notice of Intent to Prepare the CNMI Joint Military Training Environmental Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement,'" according to Chamber president Alex Sablan, "and the SCC intends to submit comments before that date.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will provide a brief financial status report to Chamber members as well.

Luncheon charges are $20 for SCC members, $30 for guests and the private public. Call 233-7150, or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com, to make reservations for May 8, 2013. ***(SCC)***

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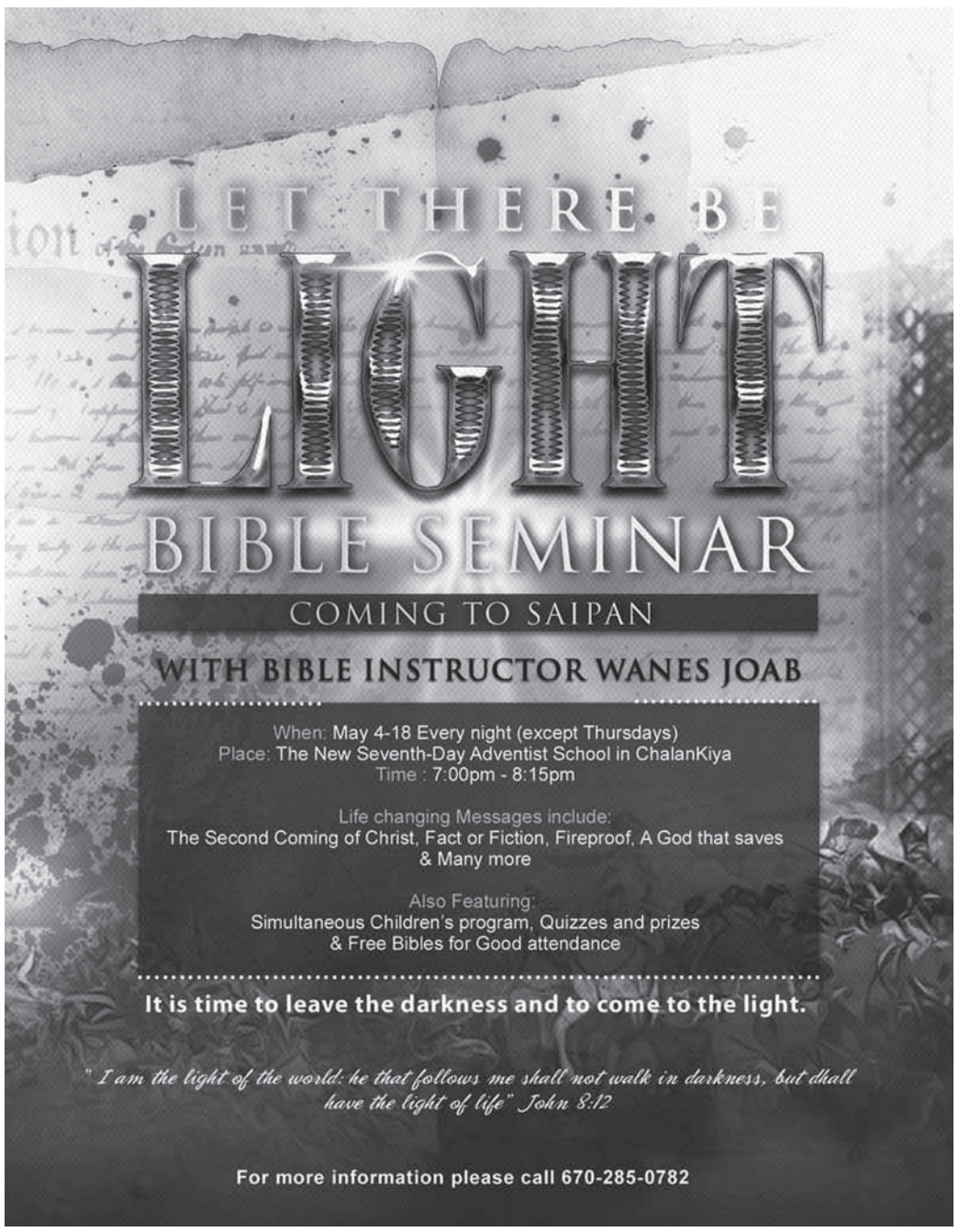
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PSS: We got a 3-pct. cut, not $3M increase

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Education officials told House Ways and Means Committee members Friday morning that the Public School System actually got a 3-percent cut rather than a $3-million increase in the governor's proposed fiscal year 2014 budget of $123.4 million, but administration officials are firm about giving the increase to PSS.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos' proposed budget gives PSS $33 million for fiscal year 2014, which he said is a $3-million increase from the fiscal year 2013 budget of some $30 million.

PSS said the $3 million is "partial" reimbursement of the central government's $6 million obligation from the fiscal year 2010 maintenance-of-effort requirements so it should not be counted as additional general fund resources for PSS for 2014.

"We are cheating our children," Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said. "We are cutting local funding for education at the same time that local revenues are going up."

House Ways and Means Committee members, led by chair Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), took turns asking Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson and Vicky Villagomez, the governor's adviser for budget and management, about the administration's proposed 2014 budget, including that for PSS, on Friday.

PSS is asking the Legislature to give them at least a $37 million to be able to hire more classroom teachers for its ever growing student population.

At Marianas High School, for example, there are over 40 students per teacher, whereas the U.S. average is 21 students per teacher, PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh said.

Education Commissioner Rita Sablan, Ed.D., and Board of Education chair Herman Guerrero said that PSS' budget for fiscal year 2013 is $30.875 million, whereas the 2014 budget is $30 million.

"Our budget was actually further reduced by 3 percent and that we did not get an increase as stated in the budget executive summary," said Guerrero, one of the education officials in the House gallery on Friday.

Villagomez said that PSS has the freedom to spend the $3 million however it wants.

"How is it a decrease in their budget? We're giving them the $3 million but it would be up to them how they spend it, whether they spend it on personnel or all others. It's up to them," she said.

Villagomez said the $3 million is half of what they owe PSS.

'Not an empty threat'

Delegate Sablan said he was in the House chamber during budget discussion "because I support education."

He said there is also a federal issue involved. He said former governor Benigno R. Fitial signed an agreement with the U.S. Department of Education when he took American Recovery and Reinvestment Act or ARRA education money in 2009.

"He agreed that local funding for education would not go down. It was called a maintenance-of-effort agreement. But the governor did not keep his word. He shortchanged PSS [by] about $6 million. The penalties for that are severe. The federal government could demand that the Commonwealth return all of the $44 million that governor Fitial received. Or the federal government could cut off future grant funds," the delegate said.

"This is not an empty threat," he added.

The federal government cut off funding a few years ago when the CNMI did not cover over all of the FICA taxes it collected from government employees, he said.

"Fortunately, however, Governor Inos has decided to honor the maintenance-of-effort agreement. The problem is that he only wants to pay PSS $3 million, half of the $6 million the schools are owed. And the governor's budget tries to say that, by paying some of its past bill, it is actually keeping school funding at last year's level. But what the governor's budget is really doing is cutting spending for PSS. I don't agree. I think we have to invest more in our children, not less. That's why I went to the Legislature with PSS," he said.

He said even before the cuts, the CNMI was already spending less on education than any other U.S. territory; half what Guam spends on its young people.

"And we know our young people have great potential," Sablan said.

He cited, for example, the Marianas High School team that recently won the national championship in the Real World Design Challenge and the Saipan Southern High School cadets that won in a national JROTC competition. He also cited the three students that were awarded Gates Millennium Scholarships.

"So, we should be investing in that success. We should double down on those students. Instead, the proposal is to cut local funding for elementary and secondary education in the 2014 budget. Cutting education at the same time as revenues are going up—that doesn't make sense," he said.

The delegate said he visited three 8th grade classes at Hopwood Junior High School on Thursday and a student told him they cannot take their textbooks home to study "because there are not enough books for every student."

"Our kids want to study, but they can't. Because we are too cheap to buy them books. You hear a lot of talk about getting our local workers into jobs. But how can we expect our local people to get jobs, if we are not willing to give our people the education they need?" he added.

The Legislature now has the governor's proposed 2014 budget, so it will be up to them whether to give more to PSS or retain the governor's proposal.

'Extremely difficult'

PSS' Thornburgh said it is "extremely difficult" to operate PSS with only a $30 million budget.

Without additional funding from the Legislature, he said PSS won't be able to hire more teachers.

Thornburgh said PSS has some 327 teachers.

"The point is we need more like over 400 teachers so there is a serious, serious shortfall and with the budget that the board and commissioner submitted of $40 million, there would be enough money to hire all the teachers that are needed," he said.

He said in the '90s, the PSS budget was at $37 million "and the Legislature paid all the utilities and we had 4,000 fewer students" compared to today.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 6, 2004

Verizon: $10M bond is 'punitive'

Pacific Telecom Inc. yesterday criticized the new conditions being proposed by Gov. Juan N. Babauta in the sale of Verizon's local operations, accusing the administration of bias against it. PTI's Jose Ricardo Delgado said the administration's prejudicial stance against his company's venture in the CNMI paints a negative picture of the islands to potential foreign investors. Verizon's local carrier, Micronesian Telecommunications Corp., echoed Delgado's position. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce also urged the governor to support the Verizon deal.

Governor backs salary adjustment for nurses

Gov. Juan N. Babauta has ordered an increase in the salaries of all nurses at the Department of Public Health to prevent what he termed as "the appearance of discrimination among the nursing staff of the DPH." Babauta asked the Civil Service Commission to amend the salary increase restrictions currently in place for nurses at the DPH so that the salary level can be adjusted across the board. In a letter to CSC chair Francisco DLG. Camacho, Babauta asked the help of the commission by preparing an emergency amendment to Part XII of the PSR Rules and Regulations that lifts the restriction on increases for all nursing classes.

May 6, 2005

CUC deficit to hit $18.5M

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has projected that its budget deficit would hit $18.5 million by yearend due to the high cost of power generation fuel. The estimate was based on the assumption that CUC would collect a total of $11 million in revenues, including $5.6 million from fuel surcharge collections, by the end of fiscal year 2005. Another factor considered in the projection is CUC's current lack of a fuel supply contract. In coming up with the projection, CUC used the price of diesel on Saipan, which is $1.91 per gallon. According to CUC, the deficit would decrease to $16.5 million if Mobil Oil Marianas' current rate for Saipan-$1.777 per gallon-is applied. Mobil was CUC's fuel supplier for the past two years at least.

GOP not endorsing Reyes' candidacy

The Republican Party central committee have decided against endorsing the re-election bid of Sen. Pete P. Reyes because of the senator's resolve not to support the party's standard bearer, Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, according to GOP executive director Felipe Atalig yesterday. "The main reason is: The party won't endorse any candidate who is not endorsing the party's candidates. If you want to be endorsed by the party, you have to endorse its standard bearer, the governor and the lieutenant governor," said Atalig. Reyes was not available for comments yesterday. In an earlier letter to GOP, Reyes said that he wants to get the party's endorsement but he would only give his "full support and will campaign for the rest of the Republican candidates."

May 6, 2006

Fitial returns CUC to board

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed yesterday an executive order returning the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to a board. This means that CUC, which the governor had earlier placed under the Department of Public Works, will regain its autonomy. The governor's order, Executive Order 2006-2, shall take effect after 60 days. Fitial said that CUC will have an advisory board rather than "a micromanaging" board. He said he would appoint next week five members of the board, who "shall serve in an advisory capacity and shall defer to the executive director with respect to the management and administration of the corporation."

Rota bird conservation to cost $806K to $4.4M

Conservation efforts for the Rota bridled white-eye on Rota and its proposed critical habitat are estimated to cost between $806,000 and nearly $4.5 million over the next 20 years, according to a federal analysis. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released its analysis yesterday, and also reopened the public comment period on a proposal of critical habitat for this bird species. The Service will accept public comments until June 5. The Rota bridled white-eye, a small yellowish bird of the island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as an endangered species.

Hole-in-one donors support HANMI charity golf tourney

Delta Air Lines, Triple J Motors, Century Tours, Pacific Saipan, and Century Insurance have joined the list of hole-in-one sponsors for the 12th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament slated for June 1, 2013.

Delta has donated a round trip ticket to any Delta Air Lines destination in the United States, and Triple J Motors will put up a 2013 Hyundai Elantra. Cash donations up for grabs will be $20,000 from Century Tours, $10,000 from Pacific Saipan, and $5,000 by Century Insurance.

"We are very fortunate to have these faithful supporters of the annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament, and we thank them again for their support this year," said Tournament chair Juko Ishikawa. "If the airline ticket is not won on the course that day, it will go to some lucky winner during the awards banquet raffle."

This year's tournament will be held at Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course and will be open to the first 144 paid registrants. Cash and numerous in-kind prizes await the winners, and proceeds of the tournament will be contributed to community charities.

Registration forms are available on the HANMI website at www.saipanhotels.org, and at Mariana Country Club, Coral Ocean Point Resort, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa, and Hyatt Regency Saipan. Early bird tournament fee is $105 for payments received by 5pm, May 29. The fee includes green fee and the awards banquet.

The fee increases to $125 after the early bird deadline. For an additional $25, players may also compete for nearest to the pin, most accurate drive, and longest drive. The tournament will start at 7am.

The tournament features seven categories: Championship Flight, A Flight, B Flight, C Flight, Seniors (55 years-and-over), Ladies, and Juniors. Players in the Championship Flight must have 0-6 handicaps, while those in A Flight are 7- 11 handicappers. The B Flight is for players with 12-17 handicap, while C Flight are for players with handicap 18 and up. Senior category is for ages 55 and up.

A junior category has been included this year for ages 8 to 16 yeas old. The registration fee for junior competitors is $70 and the last day to register for the junior category is May 16, 2013. A maximum of 24 junior golfers will be registered.

First place winners of all flights will receive $300, a trophy, and a hotel stay at one of the HANMI member hotels. Second place finishers will receive $200, a trophy and gift certificate at one of the HANMI member hotel, and third place winners will receive $100, a trophy and gift certificate at one of the HANMI member hotel. Junior category winners will receive gift certificate at one of the HANMI member hotel. Winners for the female and junior golfers will be determined using the Double Peoria handicap system. ***(HANMI)***

► Nick Nishikawa, center, chairman of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands receive a round trip ticket for any Delta Air Lines destination in the U.S. as part of Delta's sponsorship of the 12th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament. Pictured from left are Delta Inside sales representative Chris A. Concepcion, Nishikawa, and Delta Inside sales representative Esther F. Sound.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-019

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ENGINE LUBE OILS FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of engine lubricating oils for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan and Rota for the period starting August 01, 2013 through August 30, 2017.

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **May 7, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-13-019, Supply & Delivery Of Engine Lube Oils for Power Generation"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 23, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The Proposal Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **May 10, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com and Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

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EDITORIAL

If confirmed, chemical weapon use crosses red line

The latest step in the Syrian civil war, if verified, crossed a line. But was it President Barack Obama's red line?

British, French, Israeli and now American intelligence have asserted, with "varying degrees of confidence," that forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar Assad have used outlawed chemical weapons, possibly the horrific sarin, on rebels seeking his overthrow. Given such weapons' dispersive nature, civilians would have been caught in the crossfire.

Assad's government categorically denies the allegations. Meanwhile, the body count builds: As of February, the estimate reached 70,000 deaths in the 2-year-old conflict that grew out of the Arab Spring protests.

And what of Obama and the United States? The Dallas Morning News understands his behind-the-scenes caution and recognizes that few Americans want to involve their military in another war in that part of the world. The country's experiences in Afghanistan and especially Iraq should give Americans pause. We want our leaders to be decisive, but we also want them to be right.

And it was Obama who, in August, decisively offered this warning:

"We have communicated in no uncertain terms with every player in the region that that's a red line for us and that there would be enormous consequences if we start seeing movement on the chemical weapons front or the use of chemical weapons," he said. "That would change my calculations significantly."

So if the intelligence is confirmed, doing nothing has ceased to be an option, even as Obama has consistently resisted bipartisan calls to take a stronger hand in Syria.

The latest push is for the U.N. Security Council to establish a no-fly zone to blunt the Assad regime's air superiority. More than a year ago, this newspaper called on the U.S. to take a lead role in funneling arms and humanitarian aid to the anti-Assad forces.

Either move brings risk. Enforcing a no-fly zone puts pilots from the U.S. and other nations in harm's way. Yet patrolling a no-fly zone also could yield intelligence for targeted strikes and give the U.S. and its allies one way to begin controlling chemical stockpiles.

Arming the rebel forces means sorting out which forces to arm. Islamic extremists, some with al-Qaeda sympathies, have taken hold of portions of the multi-sided anti-Assad rebellion. There is no guarantee America or its allies one day won't have these weapons turned against them.

But there's that red line. Obama used those words for a reason, and failing to act now would send precisely the wrong message to other nations that may face similar ultimatums. Who would take a red line on, say, Iran seriously if the U.S. did nothing?

Obama must lead the effort through the U.N. to make clear to Assad and everyone else that the world agrees: Actions have consequences.

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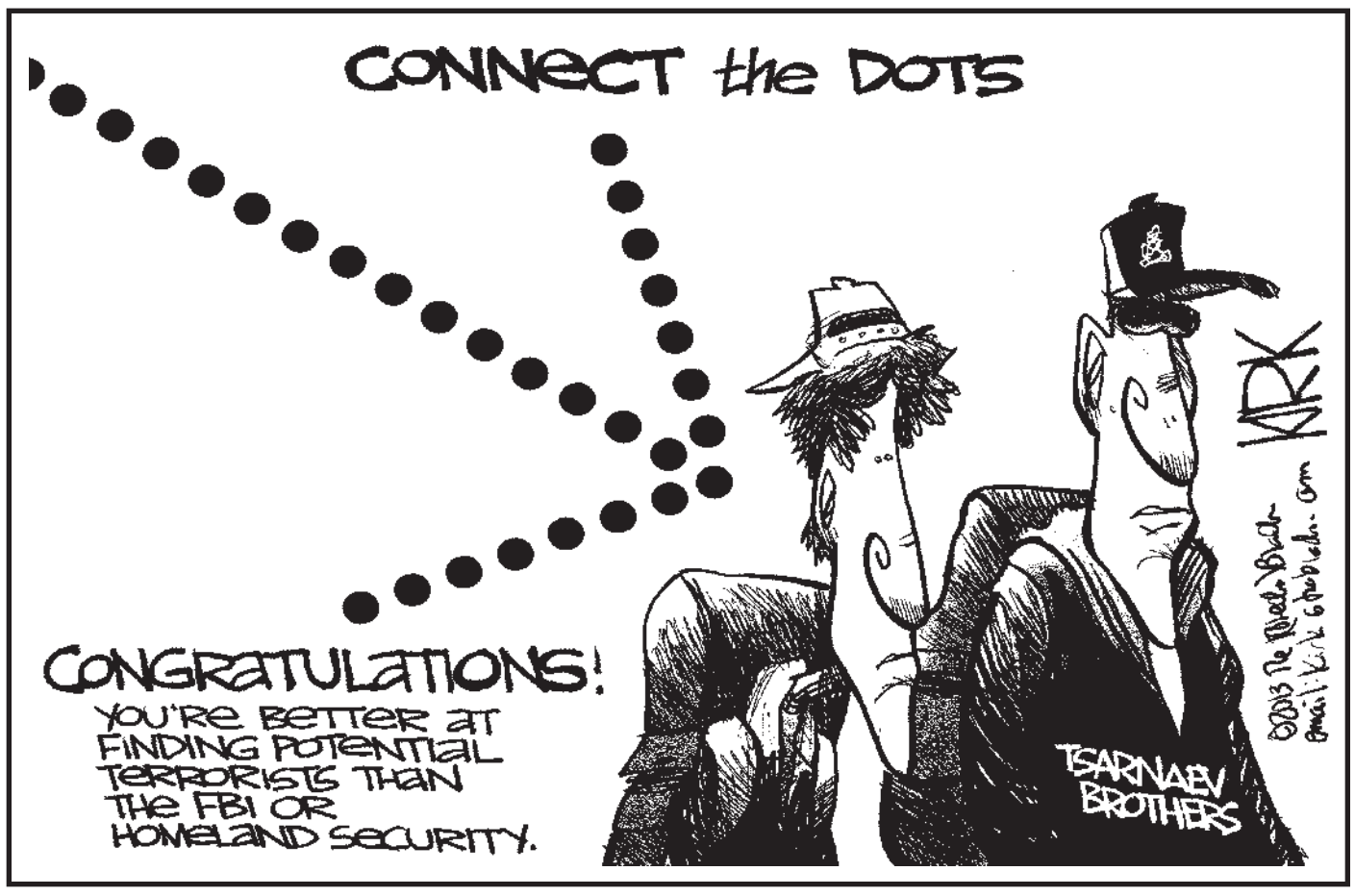


How a larger population can help the CNMI

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Almost daily we hear ideas on how the CNMI can become more economically stable. Many insist more tourists will solve most of our problems. Others cry out that we need more investors. Higher taxes will create a better government services. But no one talks about the advantages of a larger population and how we could benefit from it. Let's take a look what a larger population would do for us.

By a larger population, I am not suggesting couples should have many more children. That is a private matter best left up to married couples. By increasing our population, I am referring to creating a haven of retirement communities to encourage retired people to settle here and enjoy our beautiful islands.

Over the past 10 to 12 years, many of our people have departed from our islands. We have lost over 22 percent and now have about 50,000 or less individuals left in all our islands. And the exodus continues. Yet we need utilities, water, police protection, fire department, good hospital care, inexpensive food supply, good transportation, and many other amenities that make life comfortable. Unless we increase our population we will keep sinking further and further into debt, with the end result of more people departing.

In all our promotions to encourage tourists to come visit Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, we always espouse the beauty and the wonderful climate of our islands. Yes, we have tourists visiting, but we need a greater population to live here, making these islands their home. Note how most of our young people after graduating from high school or college depart our islands. They are young and should venture forth to find new opportunities and fresh ideas. They are not thinking of retiring.

We are a group of small islands close to huge populations in several countries with an aging population in each country. We know that we will never become an industrialized nation nor do we want to become one. So why not promote what we have that retired people would enjoy?

By encouraging retired people to settle on our islands, we would enjoy many economic benefits. One great immediate boom would be in real estate prices. People would need homes to live in. As a result our land value would increase.

The hospital would have more doctors, especially specialists, and better facilities because of the increase of their use. We would need more tradesmen take care of houses.

The retired population would bring new ideas and a diversity of cultures that we can all share. They would share their love of music, dance, and the arts.

Farmers would be able to sell more freshly grown food. Grocery stores would increase their sales. Our utility bills would be cheaper because of a greater population to share the cost. As a result more money would circulate in our community.

One of the more interesting thoughts is that children of senior citizens would be able to send their children to our school and college to get an American education. While doing so, the children would live with their grandparents safely. By graduating from our local schools and college, the children would have a greater chance of entering an American university. In reality, we would be creating a new industry of education for foreign children. We already have a start with several foreign schools being operated here now.

Since we are only a few hours away from Japan, China, and Korea, the children of the newly settled senior citizens could visit their parents often and easily. This would also add to our economy. Between visits, the senior citizens living here and their families in the home countries can easily communicate with each other via Skype and email. Communication has become so easy and accessible that constant contact is always available.

The retirement communities can be organized to suit the interests of the senior citizens. One community can be especially for retired artists, writers. Another community can offer sports such as tennis and other activities. We have several available golf courses for the ardent golfer. We could offer niches of retirement communities to suit the lifestyle of the senior citizens.

Let us explore the practicality of developing retirement homes on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. We have the climate, the beaches, and other amenities senor citizens need. The senior citizens who would come here are not food stamp recipients. They would have the means to live quite well. And the senior citizens who would come to reside here are not necessarily so aged that they be wheelchair bound, but vibrant citizens who can add much to our social and economic life.

I have always admired the Anaks Ocean View Apartments near Lower Base along Middle Road. Whoever the designer was, he had the right idea. It is well protected with a security guard, has a tennis court, a swimming pool, and a community center for all to enjoy. Think about the benefits if we have several of these around the islands.

As I continuously repeat, we have diamonds under our feet but too often fail to dig them up. We prefer seeking handouts from Uncle Sam or seeking investors who do little for us except pay taxes to maintain our government. We must act on projects that will directly help the general economy.

Look up some retirement homes on the Internet and be surprised at what you will find. The old concept of retirement communities has changed drastically. Consider the idea of retirement homes for our islands. Maybe it's an idea whose time has come. Check them out.

Keep *smiling*! It not only makes you feel good but watch the *smile* returned from the other person. It will make your day. So *smile—smile*!

A sweet sweaty day in May

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

It is the third of May in *Dong Bei* and in 48 hours, we moved from long johns to our aloha shirt with the ukulele prints on navy blue. The much vaunted two-week spring might actually turn out to be true as I found myself today walking down a broad Avenue on New Shenbei District an hour after midday, shedding my jacket and actually feeling the *sando* (undershirt) uncomfortably wet with sweat like summer.

So, who gives a hoot?

China watchers seem to be focusing on the deficiencies of the new dispensation, lately forgetting that this part of the eastern mainland of Asia had a radical shift in 1912 when it ended more than 22 centuries of dynastic rule, then moved into centralized national planning in 1949, vilified by Western powers for its affinity to the Soviet experiment and its ideological adherence to the rhetoric of Marx and Engels.

Former China president Jiang Zemin (1993-2003) characterized the 70-year journey prior to his watch as a journey of revolution, development, and reform. Detractors seem determined to take the journey since Shi Huangdi of the Qin Dynasty of 221 BC as one piece of cloth, disregarding the particulars not only on the geographical shifts of power exhibited by the yin-yang of stability and warring states, but also on the shifting economic, political, and cultural emphases attendant to each dynastic change.

But first, the weather. We teach two courses off-campus in an outlying liberal arts college that is under the academic umbrella of Shenyang Aerospace University, and when I showed up this Friday, I discovered that unlike the main campus, the college extended their May 1 vacation to the rest of the week. I was without students, an ouch after rushing over on a taxi fare!

My guesstimate is that the campus and my residence are 7 miles away downhill from the off-campus site. The long winter had kept us indoors, and a shade of tan might actually keep us away from looking pale faced, so we decided to walk home under the afternoon sun.

Along the way is construction galore of the kind conceived by dreaming bureaucrats rather than real estate agents, of the build-it-and-they-will-come variety. Like images that doomsayers of the ghost-towns-will-lead-to-a-housing-bubble crowd keeps sending up completed but unoccupied cities like Ordos in Inner Mongolia, the New Shenbei District construction consists of concrete residential and information technology parks where the mud is more prominent than the two-year-old chrome that graces the buildings' foyer and front door.

(Muddy month of May might have been a good title but liberating sweat is more our point and though muggy month of May might have sufficed as an alliteration, the humidity is really not that high either. So, we stayed with the sweat!)

And a sweet sweat, it was.

In the late sunset of our early dusk, the old knee going 68 years fared well, though it took us a good hour-and-a-half to finish the trek, with a 15-minute stop in between.

True to China's construction procedures followed in many of development districts, the roads and the bright lights, the timed crossings with the flashing red, green, and yellow seconds in the digital clock for the pedestrians, the huge billboards and the sidewalks' handicapped accessibilities, the playgrounds and parks designed for young children and grannies who look after them, of lined hedges and instant forests—all get on the ground first before the inaugural mortar goes to the building's corner stone.

We wanted to see if the construction is really just wasting away, or is the market nibbling into the new ponds of progress (one of the areas is awkwardly called the International World Gulf Resort). It is neither. One of the information technology complexes has its brass sign badly in need of bronze polish, and the front flagpoles adorning flags were in tatters, but some SMEs were operating on some ground level nook with ancillary activities while awaiting the arrival of mainframe guys. Nokia, Sony, and Apple will most likely be not the neon logos around the area, but their Chinese competition will certainly be.

Though walking light with only a laptop in a shoulder bag, we were ripe for a walking cane by the time we hit the crowd on the main campus. What had in a fortnight been just faces of morbidity and gloom were now transformed into childlike glee and wee of spring. Young folks chased each other like children, and couples were not hesitant to drop a passing caress on their paramour's back.

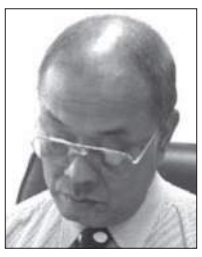
In our daily existential sensitivity to intimations of mortality, we have become a walking dead among the living, focusing on death's dread of failed retirement funds and economic recessions rather than on the fascination of being alive. Our body metabolism and its resulting sweet sweat this third day of May came us a wake-up call in a receding life journey of indifference to the vibrant romance of spring.

To warm waters went our feet and the refrigerated brew came refreshingly cold. The long johns are in mothballs, and the summer shorts are now ready to grace our girth, while the peach and cherry blossoms scents wafted in the air. Young dandelion leaves garnished our salad. A sweet and sweaty day of spring has come.

Mr. O's failed promises

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



The defeat of gun control legislation is the first political slam-dunk against one of Obama's signature issues. Next is his reckless idiotcare (Obamacare) ready for state government scrapping as Mr. O learns that not all his cylinders are firing simultaneously.

It's clear Mr. Obama desires to shred the Constitution via superficial arguments that no longer hold water. He begins to slip and slide as we see his visible loss of energy.

The debate on cost would reach cruel crescendo in both chambers. It boils down to our wallets on health cost that would increase by 32 percent, a complete reversal from Mr. O's failed promises to aid the middle class. It also denies help for critical health cases; no budget too.

Too, interesting how proponents of gun control have missed the issue of determining mental issues. The question is simple: who amongst us is given divine powers to discern that a perfectly normal human being isn't going to turn a gun against his family and himself? It's fodder for comedy too the proposed requirement on "background checks." Would a hardcore criminal selling his high-powered rifle to another criminal follow such law? Really?

Sorry, Mr. President, but there's the other side of the equation inherent under the second amendment that grants law abiding citizens the right to bear arms for their personal protection. It's constitutional all the way around and it isn't rocket science either.

The Joe Biden recommendation—take a double-barreled shotgun and fire on the balcony—isn't going to cut it either. In fact, it's illegal in his home state of Delaware!

■■■

Late-term abortion

The issue of late-term abortion has been treated like a swing at a park doing "see saw." Pro-choice folks assertively support it while pro-lifers powerfully oppose it with equal vigor.

Again, the issue of conception floats interminably in the sea of "ands, ifs, and in betweens," seeking hopeful resuscitation in ideological, philosophical, and theological premises. The issue, while it has the trappings mortals could discuss with superficial certainty, is divine. Leave it be!

Now, when an eight-month-old baby is aborted and lies on the operating table struggling for dear life, would you cut the vital vein in his neck or spinal column to kill him? Isn't this murder? Who is the patient in this case: mom or the struggling angel on the operating table? Let your true north and conscience dictate!

■■■

Boston bombers

The Boston bombers, one dead, the other recovering at a hospital, came close to being charged as "enemy combatants"—a charge usually given foreign terrorists.

Unfortunately, the bombers, though originally from Chechnya, are U.S. citizens. They could be charged for their terroristic acts but as citizens.

Due process is guaranteed citizens of the U.S. and it is an inherent part of our Constitution. No other country protects the rights of the innocent the way we do. It's the very issue that makes our country exceptional!

■■■

Thorny immigration

The immigration issue has become highly controversial for various reasons. Some see the proposal by the Gang of Eight as a "Trojan horse" for more spending. Others view it as "amnesty," grandfathering some 11 million people who entered the country illegally. They instantly avail of entitlement programs paid for by productive taxpayers.

The head of the Heritage Foundation and former U.S. senator Jim DeMint supports a "properly structured lawful immigration system that would help our economy. This is why Heritage and conservatives have long argued for reforming the legal immigration system to make the process more efficient, and merit-based.

"We need an immigration process that attracts high-skilled workers and encourages patriotic assimilation to unite new immigrants with America's vibrant civil society." Indeed! Keep out deadbeats too!

Others have recommended a 10-year hiatus on student visas for all Muslim students. But in the weeks ahead, the focus of the debate would boil down to cost, the very issue that derailed it in 2007.

■■■

It's the cost of living

Wherever you may live, the single most important issue isn't taxes and fees but the cost of living. For instance, Texas has a median income lower than New York. But taxes are low and the overall cost of living far lower than at the Big Apple.

On the islands, not only are taxes and fees high, it is equally strapped by stifling policies that are regressive at best. The cost of living is so high we need a median income of at least $180,000 annually. It's the only way to make ends meet decently.

While cost meteorites into the starry nights, the means to pay for basic public services heads the other way. And the band plays on, "Don't worry, be happy…" Wow! Need we live in the filthy swamp of mediocrity?

On taxes

There are seven states where taxes and stifling regulations are heaviest, thus the obvious lack of investment. There are also seven states where income taxes are eliminated and worked up investment friendly posture and are expanding quicker than most. Whatever you do investment-wise, take a step back and look at what's at stake. The lone star state, however, has nailed California in terms of investments.

■■■

Wealthy island nation

The world's wealthy have begun fleeing Switzerland and are headed to Singapore. The island country is slated to overtake Switzerland as the world's largest offshore wealth hub. Singapore is the fastest growing wealth center in the world, with $550 billion in assets under management—up from $50 billion in 2000. About $450 billion of that is offshore.

Switzerland has $2.8 trillion in assets under management, with $2.1 trillion of that coming from offshore wealth. Switzerland accounts for 34 percent of the $8.15 trillion in total global wealth.

The reason: Switzerland may be falling out of favor with the wealthy, while Singapore is attracting more of the new wealth from Asia. Recent offshore wealth scandals and prosecutions in the United States and Europe have pierced the veil of Switzerland's vaunted bank secrecy laws.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Paanyaya para sa lahat ng rehistradong overseas absentee voters *sa* Guam *at* CNMI

(An invitation to overseas absentee voters in Guam and the CNMI)

Patuloy pong pinaaalalahanan ng Konsuladong Panlahat ng Pilipinas dito sa Guam *ang ating mga kababayang rehistrado bilang overseas absentee voters sa* Guam *at* CNMI *na hanggang sa Lunes, ika -13 ng Mayo na lamang ang huling araw ng pagtanggap ng inyong mga balota. Hinihikayat po namin ang bawat Pilipinong* overseas absentee voters *na samantalahin ang pagkakataong ito na maging kabahagi sa pagpili ng mga mambabatas ng ating bansa. Ang karapatan upang bumoto ay isang sagradong karapatan na pinagtibay sa ating saligang batas. Huwag po nating sayangin ito.*

Para sa mga magpapadala ng kanilang balota sa pamamagitan ng koreo (mail)*, ipadala ang inyong balota sa* P.O. Box 9880 Tamuning, Guam 96931. *Maaari ding dalahin ng personal ang inyong balota sa opisina ng Konsulado sa* 6th floor, ITC Building *sa* Tamuning. *Ang Konsulado ay bukas araw-araw hanggang sa huling araw ng botohan mula alas-9 ng umaga hanggang alas-5 ng hapon. Sa Lunes, ika-13 ng Mayo, maaaring tanggapin ang inyong mga balota hanggang alas-9 ng gabi.*

Para sa inyong mga katanungan, lalo na sa mga hindi pa nakatanggap ng kanilang balota, maaari pong tumawag sa telepono bilang 646-4620/30, at, para sa mga kababayan natin sa CNMI*, (670) 682-2222. Maaari ding magpadala ng email sa* oav.pcgagana@gmail.com *o mag-iwan ng mensahe sa aming* Facebook page: Agana Pcg.

Philippine Consulate General
Tamuning, Guam

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

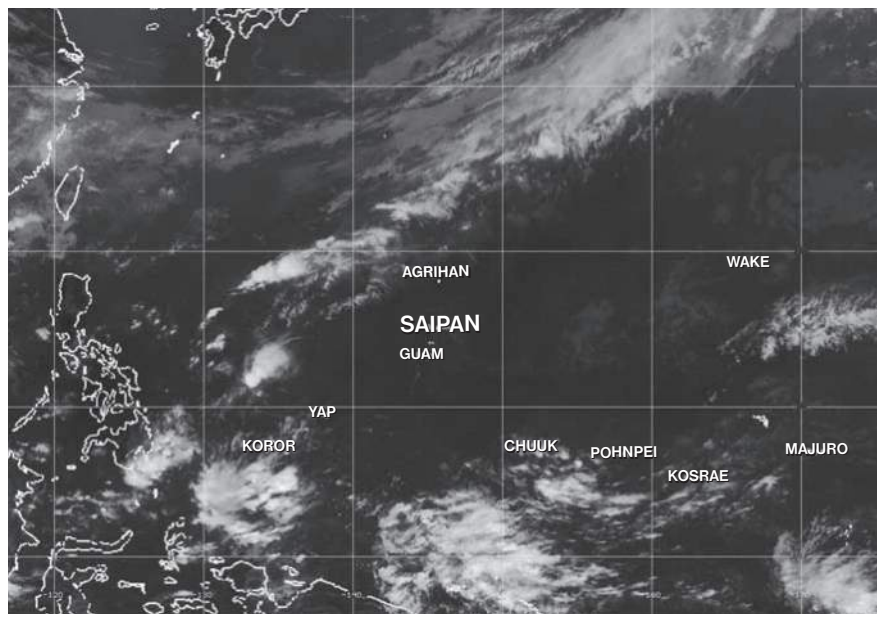
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼82
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼78
Yap	Cloudy	▲91	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲63	▼59
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼59
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲79	▼74
Honolulu	Showers	▲82	▼72
London	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼50
Los Angeles	Showers	▲67	▼58
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲93	▼83
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼43
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼67
New York	Sunny	▲62	▼44
Osaka	Sunny	▲73	▼55
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼49
Pusan	Sunny	▲71	▼56
Rome	Showers	▲70	▼58
Salem	Sunny	▲88	▼54
San Francisco	Sunny	▲64	▼56
Seoul	Sunny	▲70	▼49
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼56
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼51

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A nearly stationary front runs southwestward from west of Minami Tori Shima at 25N150E to beyond 130E at 21N. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and north of this front to beyond 25N. A tropical disturbance is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of the Marianas within 140 miles of a line from 12N133E to 22N141E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across a large area from Palau and southern Yap state southeastward to southern Chuuk state within 200 miles of a line from 7N134E to 3N141E to 2N154E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:53 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
12:41 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
6:46 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Tuesday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Wednesday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:58 AM	3:27 PM
Tuesday	3:39 AM	4:18 PM
Wednesday	4:20 AM	5:09 PM
Thursday	5:02 AM	5:59 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:50 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	2:55am	6:35am	1
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:55am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:55am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Lujan says Sen. Ayuyu improperly interrogated at DOC

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Guam-based lawyer of Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) claims that his client was improperly interrogated by U.S. government agents at the Department of Corrections in Susupe.

In Ayuyu's motion to dismiss the cell phone case, lawyer David J. Lujan said the senator's own statement was used to punish him for the exact act that he is now charged with—possession of a cell phone while in detention.

As this developed, the U.S. government filed Thursday a motion to amend the indictment and dismiss count three in the fruit bat case and a motion to compel Ayuyu to submit a set of major case prints (including fingerprints and palm prints) to law enforcement.

Lujan also filed three other motions.

One motion asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue an order separating the trial for the fruit bat case and the obstruction of justice case filed against Ayuyu.

The two other motions are to disqualify assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe, who is handling the three cases, and to allow use of jury questionnaire.

The senator is facing three criminal charges: the fruit bat case, obstruction of justice case, and the cell phone use.

In the senator's motion to dismiss, Lujan said the cell phone charge against Ayuyu should be dismissed because the statute on which it is based is vague and ambiguous on its face and in its application.

Lujan said the second reason is the government's improper interrogation of Ayuyu at the prison.

"The present prosecution violates the prohibition against double jeopardy and violates the due process clause of the United States Constitution," he said.

Lujan said the language of the law that bars the use of a cell phone inside a prison triggers questions that cannot be answered by the statute's language and cannot provide due notice of what is made criminal.

"A criminal statute must define a criminal offense with sufficient clarity that an ordinary person understands what conduct is proscribed," said Lujan, citing a U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

Lujan said that Ayuyu cannot be required to stand trial in the cell phone case without violating the principle of double jeopardy and violating the 5th and 14th amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

In the U.S. government's motion to amend and dismiss, Backe asked the court to dismiss count 3 of the indictment in the fruit bat case in order to streamline its case presentation as well as its opening and closing arguments.

Count 3 refers to violating the Lacey Act.

Backe also asked the court to strike two paragraphs in the fruit bat indictment.

In the government's motion to compel, Backe said that, according to forensic scientist Andrew Reinholz in his report, the fingerprint standards for Ayuyu and co-defendant Ryan I. Manglona in the fruit bat case were smudged and /or incompletely rolled, therefore a comparison could not be made.

Manglona has already pleaded guilty in the case. He admitted that he "helped Ayuyu pack the box that contained deceased Marianas fruit bats inside Ayuyu's kitchen by taping it on the outside."

As for severing the two cases, Lujan said the charges in the fruit bat and obstruction cases are distinct and that the separate counsels in each case will lead to confusion in the presentation of evidence and be extremely cumbersome and may mislead the trier of fact.

In his motion to disqualify Backe, Lujan said that, by voluntarily participating as an investigator and securing statements from various witnesses, Backe has made himself a likely necessary witness.

Lujan said that Backe's disqualification is necessary to preserve the integrity of the criminal judicial process.

On the use of jury questionnaire, Lujan said the complexity of issues and the notoriety of the case warrant the use of a jury questionnaire to assist the court as well as all counsel in the *voir dire* process.

Through *voir dire*, an attorney can challenge a prospective juror "for cause" if that person says or otherwise expresses bias against the lawyer's case.

10-year prison term vs man who sexually abused minor

A man who sexually abused a 13-year-old girl since she was just 10 years old on Tinian was sentenced Friday to a maximum of 10 years in prison, with no possibility of parole.

"The court finds that because this case involves sexual abuse of a 10-year-old child, full maximum sentence is appropriate," said Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho in sentencing Anthony H. Borja.

The 21-year-old Borja was directed to start serving his sentence immediately.

Borja was given credit for six months and two days of time served. He was required to register as a sex offender.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged the Borja with sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, indecent exposure in the first degree, and two counts of disturbing the peace.

Borja first signed a plea agreement with the government that recommended 0 to 8 years in prison. Camacho rejected the plea deal as too lenient two weeks ago.

Borja and his counsel signed a second plea agreement, pleading guilty to sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll recommended a sentence of seven years in prison and three years' probation. Assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg made the same recommendation.

Camacho again disagreed with the recommendations "as they are too lenient." He imposed the full maximum of 10 years imprisonment. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Ex-council member allegedly issued rubber checks

Police arrested last week former Saipan Municipal Council member Eric Frankie Demapan Diaz for allegedly issuing to two stores several bad checks.

Diaz, 35, was taken to Superior Court on Friday for a bail hearing on charges of theft and issuance of bad checks. His bail was set at $5,000 cash.

Police detective Peter Aldan stated in his report that the investigation began last April 16 after the owner of Ocean Market in Garapan reported an issuance of bad checks allegedly involving Diaz between March 20 to 29, 2013.

Aldan said the preliminary investigation showed that Diaz allegedly bought several items at Ocean Market on three occasions and each time paid using checks from Sparkles Cleaning Services that were paid out to him. He got change for each transaction.

Aldan said the store owner later learned from the bank that all checks given by Diaz were returned for insufficient funds.

The owner could not find Sparkles Cleaning Services in the phone directory. The owner also called the cell phone number that Diaz wrote in the back of the checks, but the number does not work.

Aldan said that on April 13, 2013, a cashier at Garapan Market called the police to report another issuance of bad check incident involving Diaz.

After those incidents, Diaz allegedly stopped going to Ocean Market and Garapan Market. Diaz ran as an independent for a seat in the House of Representatives for Precinct 2 in the 2012 election, but he lost. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-018

RENEWABLE ENERGY INTEGRATION STUDY

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for a Renewable Energy Integration Study for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The focus of this Renewable Energy Integration Study will be:

- To determine how much variable renewable energy (Solar PV and Wind) can CUC economically integrate into its grid?
- To investigate the operational impact - at penetration levels ranging from 10% to 50% - for Solar PV and Wind generation.

A Power System Analysis software with a Renewable Energy module will be purchased and installed on CUC computers for grid studies and operations. The contractor will recommend and install the software on computers provided by CUC. The contractor will model CUC's grid and carry out related Load-flow, Short Circuit, Stability (dynamic and transient), Transient and Protection analysis, as well as simulations.

The study should address these questions:

1. What is the impact of up to 50% variable renewable energy penetration and how can this be accommodated?
2. How much Solar PV or Wind generation can be connected on any of CUC's 13.8KV distribution feeders? Can geographic diversity or distributed generation will help mitigate variability?
3. How spinning reserve should be modified to account for the variability in Wind and Solar PV generation. What is the additional cost of spinning due to this variability?
4. What is the increased O&M cost of diesel generators due to increased ramping and cycling?
5. What are the Short Circuit levels and currents at interconnection points on the grid?
6. What are the supply quality problems; including voltage stability /collapse and frequency fluctuations?

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on April 30, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-13-018,Renewable Energy Integration Study",* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 20, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than May 10, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST) to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com and Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-020

DESIGN-BUILD RENOVATION OF CUC WAREHOUSE OFFICE AND STORAGE FACILITY

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Design-Build Renovation of CUC Warehouse Office and Storage Facility of the Commonwealth Utilities, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The selected A&E and Construction firm shall perform design and construction services for the renovation of the CUC Warehouse in Lower Base, Saipan. The firm must have experience on past design-build projects particularly on the island of Saipan.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **May 9, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-13-020, Design-Build Renovation of CUC Warehouse Office and Storage Facility, Saipan"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 28, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Statements of Qualifications will be evaluated, pre-qualified and selected based on the following criteria:

1. Familiarity and understanding of the CUC Warehouse staff daily activities
2. Qualifications and Experience of the A&E and the Contractor
   - o Proposed Methodology and Project Approach with Milestone Schedule
   - o Proposed Staffing and Experience
   - o List and Performance Recommendation on similar contracts, including the timeliness of the firms in meeting contract deadlines
   - o Present Workload and Availability

Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This Request for Proposal and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations ss 50-50-301 & 305, Procurement of Construction and Architect-Engineering Services.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org. with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Warehouse Manager, via email john.mafnas@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

2013 Taste of the Marianas

PHOTOS BY MONETH G. DEPOSA

Tourists receive guidance from staffers of Marianas Visitors Authority on how tokens can be used to purchase goods during the opening night of the monthlong Taste of Marianas at the American Memorial Park Saturday.

Customers are seen lining up and waiting to be served by a hotel staffer during the opening of the Taste of Marianas festival Saturday night where food specialties for both locals and tourists are offered throughout the night.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, center, is flanked by officials and dignitaries as he leads the ribbon-cutting ceremony Saturday night at American Memorial Park.

Brothers Tsubasa, Eito, and Takuru Sasazawa from Japan are all smiles as they visit the food booths during Saturday's opening of the Taste of Marianas.

Besides food specialties and various cuisines for tourists and spectators, the monthlong celebration also offers different arts and crafts at affordable prices.

Tourists are seen checking the offerings of a food vendor during Saturday's opening of the festival.

Members of the Saipan Awaodori Team wow the crowd and spectators during their opening performance.

Less than an hour after the festival's opening, a large crowd was already in place to witness the opening ceremonies.

Tinian airport project contractor told to produce documents on CHC project

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Texas-based contractor of the West Tinian Airport project has been compelled to produce documents and testimony involving a previous project that was also allegedly found to have defects and was ultimately settled.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Thursday granted the Commonwealth Ports Authority's motion to compel Leo A. Daly Co. to produce documents and testimony involving the new dialysis wing of the Commonwealth Health Center, a previous Daly project involving design claims.

Manglona

The judge awarded CPA fees and costs in bringing the motion to compel.

CPA filed a $1-million lawsuit against Leo Daly in February 2012 for the allegedly faulty construction of the Tinian airport's departure terminal.

Leo Daly also designed CHC's dialysis center. The CNMI government sued Leo Daly in 2009 for the allegedly defective building plan of the dialysis center.

In 2010, it was reported that Leo Daly settled the government's $10-million lawsuit for $2 million, with no admission of liability on its side.

CPA filed the motion to compel Leo Daly to produce documents and testimony relating to the company's design of the hospital project

Leo Daly, through its lawyers, argued that the settlement agreement for that CHC matter bars discovery of all documents discussing that hospital.

Leo Daly also contended that the settlement agreement lies beyond the court's domain and that it must instead call upon retired judge Alex Munson to wield his interpretative powers.

Manglona disagreed with Leo Daly.

Manglona said the settlement agreement contains two interpretation provisions.

Manglona said one states that "if there is any dispute concerning any of the terms and conditions of this agreement, Senior Judge Alex Munson has final authority to decide what terms and provisions are to be included (and/or clarified, modified or excluded) in the agreement based on his recollection…"

Manglona said the settlement agreement, however, also permits the court to exercise its interpretative powers.

The settlement agreement states that "any action brought to interpret or enforce the provisions of this agreement shall be commenced, prosecuted, and defended entirely and exclusively in the U.S. District Court for the NMI."

Manglona said that whatever the scope of Munson's authority, Leo Daly and CPA elected not to avail themselves of it.

The judge noted that the dispute over these documents has been ongoing for months and none have sought Munson's guidance.

Manglona said that pursuant to the settlement agreement, the court must interpret that agreement.

Manglona said Leo Daly essentially contends that the settlement agreement bars any claims implicating CHC.

"The court does not read it with such breadth," the judge pointed out.

Manglona said the settlement agreement focused exclusively on CHC.

"Because the settlement agreement focused exclusively on releasing claims relating to the health center, it bars only those claims seeking to hold Daly directly liable for its performance on the health center. It does not bar unrelated claims implicating Daly's performance on the health center," Manglona said.

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB13-GOV-083

Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, is soliciting sealed bids for the Puerto Rico One Million Gallon Reservoir Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior and the Economic Development Administration (EDA), US Department of Commerce. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA and EDA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Demolition Work: The Demolition Work of this Contract comprises of the demolition and disposal of existing one million gallon (MG) Puerto Rico welded steel tank to include but is not limited to its tank concrete foundations, yard piping, concrete vaults, and appurtenances. And the installation and construction of temporary bypass piping and its appurtenances.
- New Work: The New Work of this Contract comprises of the construction of a one MG nominal capacity welded steel Tank to include but is not limited to its concrete foundation, access manways, ladders and tank appurtenances, earthwork, site work to include asphalt paved access and perimeter drive and perimeter security chain link fence and access gates, piping, utility tie-in connections, protective interior and exterior tank coatings, flow meters, valves, concrete vaults, concrete headwalls, cathodic protection to include its design and installation, disinfection, testing, startup, and appurtenant work, as shown and specified, complete and operable, in accordance with the Contract Documents.

A non-refundable payment of $500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **April 15, 2013** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m.**, on **April 26, 2013**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **April 25, 2013**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3-301. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "**IFB13-GOV-083**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 pm local time **May 15, 2013**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 pm local time **May 15, 2013**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 15, 2013**, and must be received no later than **May 24, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **May 28, 2013**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **May 15, 2013**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB13-GOV-100

Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, is soliciting sealed bids for Security Services for the Water Task Force Drill Rig on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA. The Contractor is required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

The project Scope of Work and Proposal Forms will be available on or after **April 8, 2013** at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 AM**, on **April 19, 2013**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:00 PM on **April 18, 2013**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3-205. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "**IFB13-GOV-100**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 PM local time **May 8, 2013**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 PM local time **May 8, 2013**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 8, 2013**, and must be received by **May 17, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 PM local time, **May 20, 2013**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 PM local time on **May 8, 2013**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-GOV-032

Opening and Closing of Burial Vaults at Marpi Public Cemetery

The Office of the Governor, Capital Improvement Program is inviting the submission of bids ("ITB13-GOV-032") for the provision of services related to the opening and closing of burial vaults at Marpi Public Cemetery ("Cemetery"). The ITB will follow the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Procurement Regulation and specifically those related to "Competitive Sealed Bidding." The ITB package will be available on April 22, 2013 at the CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration office, Capitol Hill. Submitted Bids must conform to the format and requirements identified in the ITB.

For Bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. (Saipan Time), Tuesday, May 21, 2013 ("Bid Closing Time"):

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Marianas Procurement & Supply – Lower Base
P.O.Box 510008 CK
Saipan, Mp 96950

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on May 7, 2013 at 9 a.m. at the Marpi Public Cemetery.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a notice of intent to bid ("Notice of Intent to Bid"). Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00a.m. (Saipan Time) May 21, 2013, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 21, 2013 and must be received no later than May 31, 2013 4:30 p.m. (Saipan Time).

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. (Saipan Time), June 03, 2013 unless a Notice of Intent to Bid is timely received. If no Notice of Intent to Bid is timely filed then bids will open at 10:30 a.m. local time, on May 21, 2013

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Governor
/s/ Arnold Palacios, DLNR Secretary
/s/ Herman Sablan, P&S Director

Attorney General's Cup/NMC Charter Day

PHOTOS BY MONETH G. DEPOSA

Attorney General's Cup champion Anastasia Schweiger and CNMI Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas, center, are all smiles as they hold the AG's Cup Perpetual Trophy after the awarding rites Friday. Also in photo are Schweiger's parents Tom and Rose, first and second left, and Mount Carmel School president and Schweiger's coach, Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

The competition's third placer is Hye Young Oh from Saipan Southern High School.

Marianas Baptist Academy junior student Alina Ishikawa is this year's AG's Cup honorable mention.

Councilman Diego Kaipat from the Northern Islands delivers his inspirational message to spectators during Friday's speech competition that tackled government plans to pursue economic development on his islands.

The AG's Cup second place awardee, Mona Sierra Q. Manglona from Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior/Senior High School, delivers her speech.

Members of the Proa Music Society open the NMC Charter Day celebration on campus Friday noon.

NMC's Instructional Faculty of the Year awardee Lisa A. Lunde, third left, poses for a group photo with guests during the awarding rites Friday. With her, from left, are NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., Rep. Edmund Villagomez, Lunde, and Board of Regents members Elaine Orilla, Malua Peter, and Michaela Sanchez.

Besides food and arts and crafts, NMC also offered water activities/games for community members and spectators.

The PROA awardees have their picture taken the college regents and NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., left. Others in photo are, from second left, Rep. Edmund Villagomez, Instructional Faculty of the Year Linda Lunde, BOR vice chair Elaine Orilla, regent Malua Peter, regent Michaela Sanchez, Student of the Year awardee Richard Pizarro, Non-Instructional Faculty of the Year awardee Gregorio Sablan, and Supervisor of the Year Frankie Eliptico. Not in photo is Staff of the Year awardee Jennifer Del Avellano.

Students and community members check the festival booths during Friday's NMC Charter Day festivities.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CK Head Start PTA meeting today

The CK Head Start will have a parents and teachers meeting today, May 6, from 5:15pm to 6:30pm, at the William S. Reyes Elementary School cafeteria. One parent from each family is expected to attend. Guest Speakers are WSR vice principal Marji Pangelinan and WSR classroom teacher Maria Mendoza. They will speak about the WSR school registration and preparing your children to transition into the next grade level. Head Start Management Reports information will be available as well. ***(PR)***

Air Force, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area 517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla May 6 from noon to 4pm and May 7-9 from 10am to 3pm. The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 May 7-8 from 8am to 4pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(PR)***

UOG Board of Regents elects new officers

The University of Guam Board of Regents elected new officers at their regular meeting on April 18, 2013. Dr. W. Chris Perez was re-elected chair, William Leon Guerrero was elected vice chair, and Marcos Fong was elected treasurer. Regent Toni Sanford will serve as the BOR representative to the Regent Nominating Committee and Regent Jillette Leon-Guerrero will serve as ex-officio member on the UOG Endowment Foundation board of directors.

"It is an honor to serve on the Board of Regents," said Perez. "The board understands the importance of our work in guiding the University of Guam as it goes from a good university to a great one, preparing students to be future leaders, entrepreneurs, teachers and professionals."

Officers are elected every year during the BOR meeting in April. ***(UOG)***

Health and safety trainings

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety trainings on the following dates:

- May 7 at 5:30pm: Adult First Aid/CPR/AED Blended Learning
- May 8 at 5:30pm: Adult CPR/AED Blended Learning
- May 15 at 6pm: Adult CPR/AED
- May 16 at 6pm: Pediatric CPR/AED
- May 25 at 8am: Adult CPR/AED

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Blended Learning courses involve online courses with in-person skills exam and require at least 48-hour preregistration. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459 or visit www.redcross.org/take-a-class. ***(ARC)***

KagES kindergarten registration ongoing

Kagman Elementary School kindergarten registration for school year 2013-2014 is still ongoing from Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:00pm. Your child must be 5 years old on or before Aug. 31, 2013. Documents required: Copy of child birth certificate, health insurance, original school entrance health certificate, proof of legal guardianship (if any). Students will not be officially registered until all documents have been submitted. For more information call 237-3965/ 67. ***(PR)***

GES registration information

Kindergarten registration will begin at the Garapan Elementary School on May 7, 2013. Child must be 5 years old by Aug. 31, 2013. Date of birth must be on or before Aug. 31, 2008.

New students' registration for grades 1 to 6 will begin on July 1, 2013. Child must be 6 years old by Aug. 31, 2013. Date of birth must be before Aug. 31, 2008.

Required documents are birth certificate, school entrance health certificate from CHC or a private clinic, copy of updated health insurance, and map to residence.

For more information, call GES at 237-3341/3/5. ***(PR)***

Veterans outreach this week

This is to inform all veterans that Tina San Agustin, the senior veteran's service representative, and Lee Stahli, veteran's service representative from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, will be on Saipan for a veterans outreach on veterans' federal benefits. They will also be entertaining questions and assisting with claims.

San Agustin and Stahli will be on Saipan on Thursday, May 9, 2013, from 9am to 4:30pm, and on Friday, May 10, 2013, from 8am to 3:30pm, both at Ruth Coleman's office at Suite 206 of the Marina Height Building II.

If you wish to make an appointment or for further information, contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at the Office of Military/ Veterans Affairs at (670) 664-2650/59. ***(PR)***

Immunization shots for MHS students

April 30 was Immunization Day at Marianas High School. Any student who is not up to date with their immunization shots will not be allowed back to school as of May 10, 2013. Parents can call DPH to see if their child is up to date in case students lost their notification. Immunization shots are administered at no charge at the Department of Public Health. ***(PR)***

SVES kindergarten registration

San Vicente Elementary School's registration for kindergarten only is scheduled on May 28-31, 2013, from 9am through 11:30am in the school main office. The child must be 5 years old on or before Aug. 31, 2008, with a date of birth between Sept. 1, 2007, and Aug. 31, 2008. Registration requirements: copy of birth certificate; original health certificate (public health or private clinic); medical insurance or accidental insurance; map of residential location; power of attorney/legal guardianship (if applicable); copy of report card or certificate of completion (from any preschool). For more information, contact 237-3791. ***(PR)***

Kagman High Class of '04 reunion meeting

The Kagman High School Class of 2004 will have a class reunion meeting on May 7, Tuesday, at the pavilion across JP Center Bldg., Garapan, at 6:30pm. All classmates are urged to be present and should also help pass the information to other classmates. For more information or inquiry, email ayuyu2004reunion@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Early 20th century photos of Micronesians on display

The Pacific Collection photo exhibit, courtesy of the CNMI Museum of History and Culture, is now on display in the Hillblom Library of the CNMI Judiciary's Guma' Hustisia in Susupe. The display features 36 pictures capturing the cultural life of indigenous Micronesians during the period of 1914-1927.

Taken by Japanese photographers, the portraits of fishermen at their tasks, dancers in action, and more are believed to have been intended for Japanese publications of the time. The collection came into the Museum's possession as a result of a donation at the beginning of this century and is available for public viewing during normal business hours of the court facilities. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

ACCELERATED READERS

Congratulations to first-grader Tyana Kisha Tenorio Tesiro, center, for being GTC Elementary School's Lower Grade Race to Reading Goal Challenge winner. Tesiro, along with all other first through third grade students, participated in the two-month-long Race to Reading Goal Challenge in celebration of Library Month. The winner was chosen by using the Accelerated Reader Program, for which Tesiro earned 54.4 points and read over 125,775 words. Tesiro received certificates, books, and her very own Android tablet, courtesy of GTC's school librarian, Corazon "Ms. Con" San Nicolas, left, who is also the 2012-2013 CNMI Statewide Librarian. In this photo, Tesiro is joined by her first-grade teacher, Francine Camacho, right, and San Nicolas. Congratulations Tyana from your entire Binadu family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

D&Q DONATION

D&Q donates over $2600 worth of grocery items to the Salvation Army for use in their soup kitchen. "We really like to support the Salvation Army as they do so much for the disadvantaged in our community," said Max Kretzers, D&Q resident manager, rightmost. The soup kitchen is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at their San Antonio location. Pictured are, from left, Jack Lizama and Sam Andon, delivery team members from D&Q, Pastor Wayne Gillespie of the Salvation Army, and Kretzers.

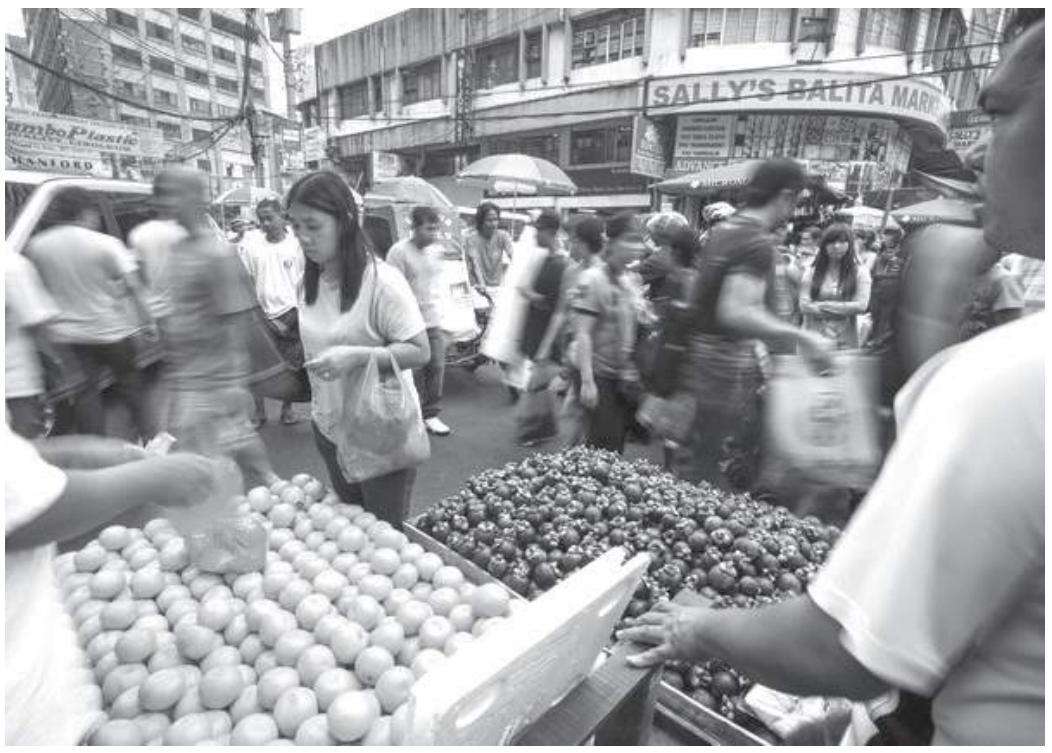
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to sixth-grader Reiniella Babauta, center, for being GTC Elementary School's Upper Grade Race to Reading Goal Challenge winner. Babauta earned 255.3 points and read over 1,707,955 words. She received certificates, books, and her very own Android Tablet, courtesy of GTC's school librarian, Corazon "Ms. Con" San Nicolas, left, who is also the 2012-2013 CNMI Statewide Librarian. In the photo, Babauta is joined by school principal Charlotte Camacho, right, and San Nicolas. Congratulations Reiniella from your entire Binadu family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Philippines beats Indonesia in gaining S&P investment grade



BLOOMBERG

Vendors sell fruit at the Divisoria market in Manila, the Philippines.

By **KARL LESTER M. YAP**
BLOOMBERG

Philippine stocks rose to a record after it beat Indonesia to win an investment grade from Standard & Poor's, as President Benigno Aquino outshines Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in improving government finances and spurring growth.

The rating on the Philippines' long-term foreign-currency-denominated debt was raised one level to BBB- from BB+, with a stable outlook, S&P said in a statement Friday. In contrast, the assessor revised its outlook on Indonesia's BB+ rating to stable from positive.

"We're continuing to address constraints to growth," Philippine Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said in a Bloomberg Television interview with Susan Li Friday. "We're fast tracking our infrastructure projects. We're looking at areas we can open up to foreign investors."

Aquino's drive to transform the nation into one of the region's fastest-growing economies is gaining strength, with the government forecasting record investment pledges this year as companies including Murata Manufacturing Co. expand. In Indonesia, President Yudhoyono has delayed cutting fuel subsidies that have drained government finances even as he tries to allocate more funds to infrastructure spending.

"For the Philippines, this is yet another confirmation that Aquino's reforms have borne fruit, which would help in attracting not just short-term flows, but long-term direct investments," said Santitarn Sathirathai, a Singapore-based economist at Credit Suisse Group AG. "The rating momentum for Indonesia is moving in the wrong direction."

Capital inflows

The Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose as much as 1.9 percent to a record. Indonesia's benchmark Jakarta Composite Index slid a second day.

The peso climbed to a four-week high, rising 0.3 percent to 40.93 per dollar, according to Tullett Prebon Plc. In the past 12 months, it is the biggest gainer after the Thai baht among 11 Asian currencies tracked by Bloomberg.

"The upgrade on the Philippines reflects a strengthening external profile, moderating inflation, and the government's declining reliance on foreign currency debt," S&P said. "In our assessment, the stalling of the reform momentum in Indonesia and a weaker external profile have diminished the potential for an upgrade over the next 12 months," it said separately.

Higher ratings may boost capital inflows into the Philippines and prompt the central bank to add to measures to curb asset-bubble risks. *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* last month cut the rate it pays on special deposit accounts for a third time this year, while keeping the rate it pays lenders for overnight deposits at a record-low 3.5 percent.

Continued strength

"The Philippine central bank has done a good job in managing inflows," S&P credit analyst Agost Benard said in a teleconference. Still, the peso will likely have to appreciate as inflows continue to rise, he said.

Moody's Investors Service, which rates the Philippines one step below investment grade, is keeping a close eye on developments on the ground, Singapore-based sovereign analyst Christian de Guzman said in an interview Friday.

"Much of the momentum has continued in terms of growth, as well as the health of external payments position, as evidenced by the continued strength of remittance inflows and stability of foreign exchange reserves," he said. "However, revenue performance is starting to slow and begs the question if efforts to increase tax efficiency have already been maximized."

Philippine revenue collection fell a second month in March, a report showed yesterday, even after the implementation of a "sin tax" on alcohol and tobacco products. Indonesia's rating of Baa3 above the Philippines is still justified, de Guzman said, citing a longer track record of growth and fiscal management.

Infrastructure investment

Aquino has increased state spending and narrowed the budget deficit while seeking more than $17 billion of infrastructure investments to spur growth to as much as 7 percent this year. The Philippine economy, which was more than twice the size of Malaysia and 10 times bigger than Singapore's in 1960, expanded 6.8 percent in the fourth quarter.

The president has taken on the Catholic Church with a bill to provide free contraceptives to the poor, arrested his predecessor on graft charges, and ousted the country's top judge for illegally concealing his wealth. Transparency International raised the country's ranking on its annual corruption index last year to 105, versus Indonesia's 118.

Fitch Ratings was the first to upgrade the Philippines to investment grade in March. Moody's Investors Service rates the nation one step below.

Nation

NRA, gun control advocates: Fight far from over

HOUSTON (AP)—National Rifle Association leaders told members Saturday that the fight against gun control legislation is far from over, with battles yet to come in Congress and next year's midterm elections, but they vowed that none in the organization will ever have to surrender their weapons.

Proponents of gun control also asserted that they are in their fight for the long haul and have not been disheartened by last month's defeat of a bill that would have expanded background checks for gun sales.

The debate over gun control legislation has reached a fever pitch in the wake of December's mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., in which 20 first-graders and six educators were killed. The expanded background checks bill supported by President Barack Obama and other lawmakers in response to the Connecticut shooting failed to pass in the Senate.

During a fiery and defiant speech Saturday, Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre, the public face of the NRA, said the "political and media elites" have tried to use Sandy Hook and other recent shootings "to blame us, to shame us, to compromise our freedom for their agenda." He said the proposed bill "got the defeat that it deserved" and that the measure would do nothing to prevent the next mass shooting.

"We will never surrender our guns, never," LaPierre told several thousand people during the organization's annual member meeting, which is part of the yearly NRA convention being held this weekend in Houston. More than 70,000 NRA members are expected to attend the three-day convention, which began Friday. Acres of displays of rifles, pistols, swords and hunting gear could be found inside the convention hall.

James Porter, the incoming NRA president, said Obama's gun control efforts have created a "political spontaneous combustion" that has prompted millions of Americans to become first-time gun owners and created a national outrage that will manifest itself in next year's midterm elections.

"The Senate and House are up for grabs," Porter said during Saturday's meeting. "We can direct this massive energy of spontaneous combustion to regain the political high ground. We do that and Obama can be stopped."

LaPierre said the NRA now has a record 5 million members, but he urged for increased membership and added that it "must be 10 million strong" in its battle against gun control.

Meanwhile, across the street from the convention, advocates of expanded background checks and other gun control measures vowed to continue their fight.

Experts: Feds pressure widow, pals in bomb case

BOSTON (AP)—Every time the widow of suspected Boston Marathon bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev leaves her parents' house, federal agents watching the residence follow her in unmarked vehicles.

Federal authorities are placing intense pressure on what they know to be the inner circle of the two bombing suspects, arresting three college buddies of surviving brother Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, and keeping Tamerlan's 24-year-old widow, Katherine Russell, in the public eye with their open surveillance and leaks to media about investigators' focus on her.

Legal experts say it's part of their quest not just to determine whether Russell and the friends are culpable but also to push for as much information as possible regarding whether the bombing suspects had ties to a terrorism network or accomplices working domestically or abroad. A primary goal is to push the widow and friends to give their full cooperation, according to the experts.

David Zlotnick, a professor of law at Roger Williams University and former federal prosecutor in the District of Columbia, said authorities may be tracking Russell closely because they feel she's not being completely honest about all she knows.

"It seems to me they don't believe her yet," he said.

Dzhokhar is in a prison hospital, facing a potential death sentence if convicted of the terrorism plot that authorities allege the 19-year-old and his late 26-year-old brother carried out April 15. Twin pressure cooker bombs detonated near the race's finish line, leaving three people dead and injuring more than 260 others. Tamerlan died in a gunfight with authorities April 19, a day after authorities released photos of the suspects.

Tamerlan's widow has been ensconced at her parents' North Kingstown, R.I., home since then. Much about her remains a mystery, including what she knew or witnessed in the weeks, months and years before the bombings, and what she saw and did in the days after.

It's unclear when Russell last communicated with her husband, but her lawyer, Amato DeLuca, told The Associated Press in an interview last month that the last time she saw him was before she went to work April 18. DeLuca said Tuesday that Russell had met with law enforcement "for many hours over the past week," and would continue to do so in the coming days. He previously told the AP that Russell didn't suspect her husband of anything before the bombings, and nothing seemed amiss in the days after.

ACROSS THE NATION

Cooler weather aids fight against Calif. wildfire

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—A big cool-down in weather calmed a huge wildfire burning in Southern California coastal mountains Saturday, and firefighters worked to cut miles of containment lines while conditions were favorable. High winds and withering hot, dry air were replaced by the normal flow of damp air off the Pacific, significantly reducing fire activity. "The fire isn't really running and gunning," said Tom Kruschke, a Ventura County Fire Department spokesman. The 43-square-mile blaze at the western end of the Santa Monica Mountains was 56 percent surrounded. The humidity level rose so much that an overnight effort to burn away fuel at one section of the fire did not work well, Kruschke said. Despite the favorable conditions, evacuation orders remained in place for residences in several areas.

Police: Utah soccer referee punched by player dies

MURRAY, Utah (AP)—A Utah soccer referee who was critically injured and in a coma after being punched by a teenage player during a game died Saturday night, police said. Ricardo Portillo, 46, of Salt Lake City passed away at the hospital, where he was being treated following an assault during a soccer game last weekend, Unified police spokesman Justin Hoyal said. Police have accused a 17-year-old player in a recreational soccer league of punching Portillo after the man called a foul on him and issued him a yellow card. "The suspect was close to Portillo and punched him once in the face as a result of the call," Hoyal said in a press release. The teen has been booked into juvenile detention on suspicion of aggravated assault. Hoyal said authorities will consider additional charges since Portillo has died.

Asia

Bangladesh death toll reaches 547

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Ten days after the horrifying collapse of a garment-factory building, life has become still more gruesome for crews working to recover bodies at the site. The death toll rose to 547 on Saturday and the stench of decaying flesh was sickening evidence that the work is not yet done.

Rescue workers said some bodies have deteriorated so badly that they have found bones without flesh. Since the April 24 collapse in the Dhaka suburb of Savar, high temperatures have generally been 32 degrees C (90 degrees F) or above, and lows have rarely dipped below 27 C (80 F).

"The bodies are smelling. We are using air freshener to work here," said Mohibul Alam, a firefighter at the collapse scene. The odor of decay is overpowering just the same.

Bodies have decomposed beyond recognition, Alam said, but he added that some could still be identified because the victims' identification cards were found with them.

Some of the victims who had been closest to escaping appear to be among the last to be recovered. Only now have rescuers dug deep enough, using cranes and other equipment, to approach the stairs of the ground floor.

The official death toll from the collapse reached 547 Saturday and was expected to climb. The official number of missing has been 149 since Wednesday, though unofficial estimates are higher.

The disaster is likely the worst garment-factory accident ever, and there have been few industrial accidents of any kind with a higher death toll. It surpassed long-ago garment-industry disasters such as New York's Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire, which killed 146 workers in 1911, and more recent tragedies such as a 2012 fire that killed about 260 people in Pakistan and one in Bangladesh that same year that killed 112.

Bangladesh's $20 billion garment industry supplies retailers around the world and accounts for about 80 percent of the impoverished country's exports. The collapse has raised strong doubts about retailers' claims that they could ensure worker safety through self-regulation.

Five garment factories operated in the Rana Plaza building that collapsed, and many brand labels have been found in the wreckage, but only two retailers, Britain's Primark and Canada's Loblaw Inc., have acknowledged that their clothes were being made there at the time. Loblaw's CEO has decried the "deafening silence" from what he said were more than two dozen other international retailers who used garment factories in the collapsed building.

Mainuddin Khandkar, the head of a government committee investigating the disaster, said Friday that substandard building materials, combined with the vibration of the heavy machines used by the five garment factories inside the Rana Plaza building, led to the horrific collapse. Because of a power outage, heavy generators were turned on about 15 minutes before the building fell, he said.

The building developed cracks a day before the collapse, and Rana Plaza owner Mohammed Sohel Rana called engineer Abdur Razzak Khan to inspect it. Khan appeared on television that night and said he told Rana the building should be evacuated.

Police also issued an evacuation order, but witnesses say that hours before the collapse, Rana told people that the building was safe and garment factory managers told their workers to go inside.

Rana has been arrested is expected to be charged with negligence, illegal construction and forcing workers to join work, crimes punishable by a maximum of seven years in jail. Authorities have not said if more serious crimes will be added.

On Thursday, Khan was arrested as well, on a charge of negligence. Police said he worked as a consultant to Rana when three illegal floors were added to what was supposed to be a five-story building.

The Bangladesh High Court also has ordered the government to confiscate Rana's property and freeze the assets of the owners of the factories in Rana Plaza so the money can be used to pay the salaries of their workers.

Savar's mayor and another local official have been suspended in an apparent effort by higher levels of Bangladesh's government to fend off accusations that it is in part to blame for the tragedy because of weak oversight of the building's construction.

In New Delhi on Friday, Bangladesh Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith downplayed the impact of the disaster on the garment industry, which is by far the country's biggest source of export income.

"The present difficulties ... well, I don't think it is really serious—it's an accident," Muhith said. "And the steps that we have taken in order to make sure that it doesn't happen, they are quite elaborate and I believe that it will be appreciated by all."

ASIAN BRIEFS

7 American service members killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Seven U.S. soldiers and a member of the NATO-led coalition were killed on Saturday in one of the deadliest days for Americans and other foreign troops in Afghanistan in recent months, as the Taliban continued attacks as part of their spring offensive. The renewed violence came as Afghan President Hamid Karzai acknowledged at a news conference that regular payments his government has received from the CIA for more than a decade would continue. Karzai also said that talks on a U.S.-Afghan bilateral security agreement to govern future American military presence in the country had been delayed because of conditions the Afghans were placing on the deal. The U.S.-led coalition reported that five international troops were killed by a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan, and coalition spokesman Capt. Luca Carniel confirmed that all five were American.

Voting begins in tight Malaysian national election

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Millions of Malaysians voted Sunday in tight national elections that could see the long-ruling coalition ousted after nearly 56 years in power. Incumbent Prime Minister Najib Razak has voiced confidence that the National Front coalition will remain Malaysia's dominant political force despite facing its most unified opposition challenge since independence from Britain in 1957. Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's three-party alliance hopes widespread grievances over how the National Front has struggled with accusations of arrogance, abuse of public funds and racial discrimination will translate into a surge of votes to propel the opposition into power.

Pakistani fishermen hold political rally—at sea

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—Wearing life jackets and bobbing on the gentle waves of the Arabian Sea, supporters of a candidate in Pakistan's upcoming nationwide election held a waterborne rally to highlight the challenges faced by their embattled fishing community. Backers of independent political candidate Haji Usman Ghani took to the water Friday on a flotilla of fishing boats. He is contesting May 11 elections for the Sindh provincial assembly from a constituency near the southern port of Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, and many of his prospective voters work in the fishing industry on the nearby coast. Dozens of boats filled with his supporters left the harbor and went into the Arabian Sea with flags flying.

World

Israel launches airstrike vs Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—Israel launched an airstrike in the Syrian capital Sunday targeting a shipment of extremely accurate guided Iranian-made missiles believed to be on their way to Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group, an intelligence official in the Middle East said.

The attack, the second in three days, signaled a sharp escalation of Israel's involvement in Syria's bloody civil war.

The confirmation came hours after Syria's state media reported that Israeli missiles struck a research center near the Syrian capital, setting off explosions and causing casualties.

The official told The Associated Press that, as with Friday's strike, the target was Fatah 110 missiles, which have very precise guidance systems with better aim than anything Hezbollah has in its arsenal.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity in order to disclose information about a secret military operation to the media.

Israel has said it will not allow sophisticated weapons to flow from Syria to the Lebanese Hezbollah militia, an ally of Syrian President Bashar Assad and a heavily armed foe of the Jewish state.

An airstrike in January also targeted weapons apparently bound for Hezbollah, Israeli and U.S. officials have said.

AP

This photo released on the official Facebook page of Syrian President Bashar Assad, shows Syrian president Bashar Assad, right, surrounded by bodyguards as young people, wave at him during the inauguration ceremony on Saturday of a statue dedicated to "martyrs" from Syrian universities who died in the country's two-year-old uprising and civil war, in Damascus, Syria, Saturday, May. 4, 2013.

The Syrian state news agency SANA reported early Sunday that explosions went off at the Jamraya research center near Damascus, causing casualties. "Initial reports point to these explosions being a result of Israeli missiles that targeted the research center in Jamraya," SANA said.

A Syrian activist group, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, also reported large explosions in the area of Jamraya, a military and scientific research facility northwest of Damascus, about 15 kilometers (10 miles) from the Lebanese border.

An amateur video said to be shot early Sunday in the Damascus area showed a huge ball of fire lighting up the night sky. The video appeared genuine and corresponded to other Associated Press reporting.

Israel's first airstrike in Syria, in January, also struck Jamraya.

Sunnis flee Syrian city after reports of killings

BEIRUT (AP)—Thousands of Sunni Muslims fled a Syrian coastal town Saturday, a day after reports circulated that dozens of people, including children, had been killed by pro-government gunmen in the area, activists said.

The violence occurred as embattled Syrian President Bashar Assad made his second public appearance in a week in the capital, Damascus. Also, Israeli officials confirmed that the country's air force carried out an airstrike against Syria, saying it targeted a shipment of advanced missiles bound for the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, an ally of the Assad regime.

It was the second Israeli strike this year against Syria and the latest salvo in its long-running effort to disrupt Hezbollah's quest to build an arsenal capable of defending against Israel's air force and spreading destruction inside the Jewish state.

The violence in the coastal region of Syria underscored the sectarian nature of the two-year conflict that has killed tens of thousands and sent more than 1 million Syrians refugees to neighboring countries.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said around 4,000 people were fleeing from the predominantly Sunni southern parts of the Mediterranean city of Banias amid fears that pro-government gunmen "might commit a massacre."

There were conflicting reports of the death toll in Banias on Friday. The Observatory said at least 62 people, including 14 children, were killed in Ras al-Nabeh, a neighborhood in Banias, but that the number could rise as many people are still missing. The Local Coordination Committees, another activist group, said 102 people were killed.

The Observatory said security forces were checking people's identity cards and asking them to return to Banias so that the situation could appear normal. It said those fleeing were mostly heading to the city of Tartus to the south and the town of Jableh just north of Banias.

WORLD BRIEFS

Bodies of 2 US crew found at Kyrgyzstan crash site

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP)—Search teams on Saturday found the bodies of two American crew members near where their military refueling plane crashed in the rugged mountains of Kyrgyzstan, while the third crew member was still missing, the emergencies minister of the Central Asian nation said. The KC-135 plane crashed Friday afternoon about 100 miles (160 kilometers) west of the air base that the U.S. operates in Kyrgyzstan to support military operations in Afghanistan. Officials at the U.S. Transit Center at the Manas base have released no information yet on the cause of the crash and could not immediately be reached on Saturday for any further information.

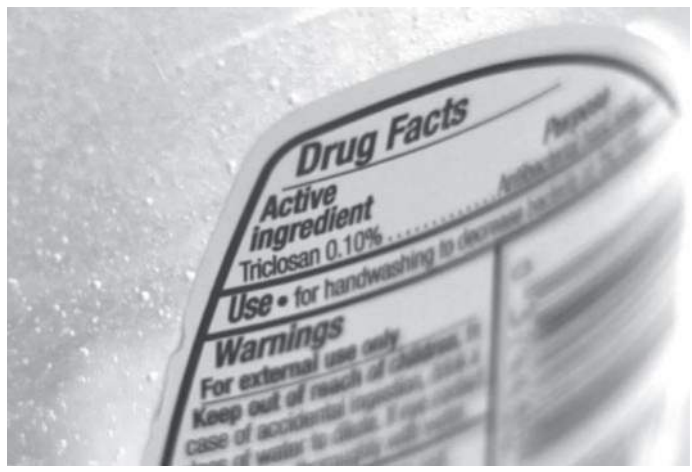
Report: Train with chemicals derails in Belgium

BRUSSELS (AP)—Belgian media say that hundreds of people were evacuated after a train carrying chemicals derailed and caught fire in northern Belgium. Amateur video showed the train ablaze in the early hours of Saturday; in daylight, the train cars could be seen forming a zig-zag over the track. Media, citing a statement from the East Flanders government, said that authorities were investigating if a death of someone in the area of the derailment was linked to the accident. The statement said 17 people were injured.

Health & Fitness

Decades-old question: Is antibacterial soap safe?

By MATTHEW PERRONE
AP HEALTH WRITER



AP
This Tuesday, April 30, 2013, photo, shows an antibacterial soap in a kitchen Tuesday in Chicago.

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's a chemical that's been in U.S. households for more than 40 years, from the body wash in your bathroom shower to the knives on your kitchen counter to the bedding in your baby's basinet.

But federal health regulators are just now deciding whether triclosan—the germ-killing ingredient found in an estimated 75 percent of antibacterial liquid soaps and body washes sold in the U.S.—is ineffective, or worse, harmful.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is planning to deliver a review this year of whether triclosan is safe. The ruling, which will determine whether triclosan continues to be used in household cleaners, could have implications for a $1 billion industry that includes hundreds of antibacterial products from toothpaste to toys.

The agency's review comes amid growing pressure from lawmakers, consumer advocates and others who are concerned about the safety of triclosan. Recent studies of triclosan in animals have led scientists to worry that it could increase the risk of infertility, early puberty and other hormone-related problems in humans.

"To me it looks like the risks outweigh any benefit associated with these products right now," said Allison Aiello, professor at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health. "At this point, it's just looking like a superfluous chemical."

The concerns over triclosan offer a sobering glimpse at a little-known fact: Many chemicals used in everyday household products have never been formally approved by U.S. health regulators. That's because many germ-killing chemicals were developed decades ago before there were laws requiring scientific review of cleaning ingredients.

The controversy also highlights how long it can take the federal government to review the safety of such chemicals. It's not uncommon for the process to drag on for years, since regulators must review volumes of research and take comments from the public on each draft.

In the case of triclosan, Congress passed a law in 1972 requiring that the FDA set guidelines for dozens of common antibacterial chemicals found in over-the-counter soaps and scrubs. The guidelines function like a cookbook for manufacturers, detailing which chemicals can be used in what products, and in what amounts.

In 1978, the FDA published its first tentative guidelines for chemicals used in liquid hand soaps and washes. The draft stated that triclosan was "not generally recognized as safe and effective," because regulators could not find enough scientific research demonstrating its safety and effectiveness.

The FDA published several drafts of the guidelines over the years, but the agency never finalized the results. So, companies have not had to remove triclosan from their products.

Meanwhile, the agency did approve triclosan for use in Colgate's Total toothpaste in 1997, after Colgate-Palmolive Co. submitted data showing that the ingredient helped fight gingivitis.

Then, last summer, the FDA said its review of triclosan would be complete by late 2012. That target date then slipped to February, which has also come and gone. But pressure on the agency from outside critics didn't let up.

In March, a federal appeals court said a lawsuit by the nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council aimed at forcing the FDA to complete its review could move forward. A three-judge panel reinstated the 2010 lawsuit, which had been tossed out by a lower court, saying the nonprofit group presented evidence that triclosan could potentially be dangerous.

Now, four decades after it was charged with reviewing triclosan, the FDA is planning to complete its review. FDA spokeswoman Stephanie Yao said evaluating triclosan and other antibacterial agents is "one of the highest priorities" for the agency, but did not offer an explanation for the delay.

The FDA's website currently states that "the agency does not have evidence that triclosan in antibacterial soaps and body washes provides any benefit over washing with regular soap and water."

The American Cleaning Institute, a cleaning products trade organization, says it has provided reams of data to FDA showing that triclosan is both safe and effective.

"Triclosan is one of the most reviewed and researched ingredients used in consumer and health care products," says Brian Sansoni, a spokesman for the group, whose members include Colgate-Palmolive and Henkel Consumer Goods Inc., maker of Dial soap.

While it can take years for the government to make rules, members of Congress say there is little precedent for the FDA's four-decade review of triclosan.

Study: Exercise cuts kidney stone risk in women

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

AP
Nicole Wells works in a community garden at the Sherwood Presbyterian Church in Sherwood, Ore. on Saturday, May 15, 2010.

Women have another reason to exercise: It may help prevent kidney stones. You don't have to break a sweat or be a super athlete, either. Even walking for a couple hours a week can cut the risk of developing this painful and common problem by about one-third, a large study found.

"Every little bit makes a difference" and the intensity doesn't matter—just getting a minimum amount of exercise does, said Dr. Mathew Sorensen of the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle.

He led the study, which was to be discussed Friday at an American Urological Association conference in San Diego.

About 9 percent of people will get a kidney stone sometime in their life. The problem is a little more common in men, but incidence has risen 70 percent over the last 15 years, most rapidly among women.

Obesity raises the risk as do calcium supplements, which many women take after menopause. A government task force recently advised against supplements for healthy older women, saying that relatively low-dose calcium pills don't do much to keep bones strong but make kidney stones more likely.

The new research involved nearly 85,000 women 50 and older in the government-funded Women's Health Initiative study. All had an exam to measure weight and height so doctors could figure out their body mass index, a gauge of obesity. They also filled out annual surveys on what they ate, so researchers could take into account things known to lower the risk of kidney stones, such as drinking a lot of fluids and eating less salt or meat.

Participants said how much exercise they usually got and that was translated into "METs"—a measure of how much effort an activity takes. For example, 10 METs per week is about 2 1/2 hours of walking at a moderate pace, four hours of light gardening or one hour of jogging.

After about eight years, 3 percent of the women had developed a kidney stone. Compared to women who got no leisure-time exercise, those who got up to 5 METs per week had a 16 percent lower risk for stones. The risk was 22 percent lower with 5 to 10 METs per week and 31 percent lower for 10 METs or more. Exercise beyond 10 METs added no additional benefit for kidney stone prevention. Exercise intensity didn't matter—just how much women got each week.

"We're not asking people to run marathons. This is just a very mild to moderate additional amount of activity," Sorensen said.

Why might exercise help? It changes the way the body handles nutrients and fluids that affect stone formation. Exercisers sweat out salt and tend to retain calcium in their bones, rather than having these go into the kidneys and urine where stones form. They also tend to drink water and fluids afterwards, another plus for preventing stones.

"There's something about exercise itself that probably produces things in your urine that prevent stone formation," said one expert not involved in the work, Dr. Kevin McVary. He is chairman of urology at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, Ill., and a spokesman for the urology group. "It's not just being skinny or not being fat, it's something about the exercise that protects you."

Exercise is known to cut the risk of heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and other conditions that raise the risk of kidney stones. Next, researchers want to study men and younger women to see if exercise helps prevent kidney stones in them, too.

Personal Trainer
Your body's warning signs
Anyone who exercises needs to stay aware of how his or her body feels and watch for these clear signs of danger:
Signs you should stop a workout
1 Any discomfort in chest, arms, neck or jaw
2 Feeling faint, light-headed or nauseous
3 Shortness of breath, wheezing or inability to return to normal breathing in 5 minutes
4 Discomfort or pain in a bone or joint
5 Any discomfort that you can call a "pain"
Source: "The Whartons' Cardio-Fitness Book" by Jim and Phil Wharton
Signs you need to take time off from exercising
1 Inability to finish workout you could do easily two days earlier
2 Inability to talk during exercise you would normally talk through
3 Persistent fatigue; difficulty sleeping
4 Faster pulse than normal on awakening in morning
5 Increased irritability
6 Dreading your workout
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Graphic: Helen Lee McComas and Paul Trap

Life & Style

Witherspoon pleads no contest, fined

ATLANTA (AP)—Actress Reese Witherspoon pleaded no contest to a disorderly conduct charge and paid a $100 fine after berating a law enforcement officer while her husband was given a sobriety test—an embarrassing exchange caught on a dashboard camera after the usually squeaky-clean Hollywood star had what she called "one too many" glasses of wine.

The video, which was first obtained by TMZ and publicly released by authorities Friday, shows Witherspoon asking the Georgia state trooper after she was placed in custody, "Do you know my name?" and adding, "You're about to find out who I am."

Witherspoon's lively exchange had already been outlined in a police report, but the video offered a rare glimpse at the actress unfiltered. Witherspoon, an Oscar-winning actress who has built a wholesome professional image, apologized shortly after her arrest, saying she was "deeply embarrassed."

Municipal Court of Atlanta Deputy Solicitor Ronda Graham said in a statement that Witherspoon entered the plea and paid the fine, resolving the case.

During an interview with ABC on Thursday, Witherspoon said she panicked and said "all kinds of crazy things," including falsely claiming that she was pregnant at one point. She said during the interview that she had too much to drink before her arrest.

Witherspoon

In the video, the 37-year-old argues with the trooper while he attempts to question her husband, Hollywood agent Jim Toth, after a traffic stop in Atlanta in the predawn hours of April 19.

Toth pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of drunken driving, Graham said. He was fined $600 and ordered to perform 40 hours of community service and participate in a program for driving under the influence offenders.

That is a "standard sentence for a first-time offender," Graham said.

In the dash-cam video, Trooper First Class J. Pyland tells Witherspoon to stay in the couple's vehicle no fewer than five times. Witherspoon is equally determined to get out and engage him, even at one point feigning to be pregnant and saying she needed to use the bathroom.

The video shows the situation quickly escalating.

When Witherspoon approaches and continues to try to intervene, the trooper starts placing her under arrest.

"You better not arrest me! Are you kidding me?" she asks.

"Nope," he responds.

She protests again, "I'm an American citizen!" The trooper leans toward her and says, "I told you to get in that car and stay in there didn't I?"

The petite Witherspoon turns to yell at the trooper as he's handcuffing her, and he warns her against resisting arrest.

"This is harassment!" she says. "You're harassing me as an American citizen! I have done nothing against the law!"

Witherspoon's husband mostly observes the exchange but tries to calm her after the trooper's warning. "Reese, can you please?" Toth asks.

While Witherspoon sits handcuffed in the police car, the trooper returns to view and tells Toth, "I tried."

Toth says "I'm sorry," and the trooper adds, "I absolutely 100 percent tried."

'Idol' contestant Sanchez is not idle post-show

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Petite powerhouse Jessica Sanchez enjoyed singing ballads on last season's "American Idol," where she placed second.

But the 17-year-old says ballads aren't her only interest: Sanchez is hoping to capture a new—and younger—audience with her debut album, "Me, You & the Music," released this week.

AP

In this Tuesday, April 16, 2013 photo, singer Jessica Sanchez poses for a portrait, in Los Angeles.

"People don't know me as the Jessica that I want to show. They know me as balladeer Jessica, which is shy, sweet, just like standing-there Jessica," she said. "And now I have to really make a mark and show people that I have fun and I'm 17 and I'm ready to be out there and just, you know, be young."

Sanchez lost to bluesy guitar player Phillip Phillips on the 11th season of the Fox singing competition, but many doors have since opened for the California native.

In a recent interview with The Associated Press, the singer discussed life after "Idol," her debut album, performing with Ne-Yo and landing a guest role on "Glee."

AP: Talk about mixing the sound that helped you excel on "Idol" with a more playful one on your album.

Sanchez: Music, it just runs in my blood and I love music. So I'm trying to bring the tone of my voice and trying to mix it with the genre, the generation of music now. So that you get the feel of the real voice, the real grittiness that you got back in the day, and bring it to the pop-club mix.

AP: What was it like when you returned to the "Idol" stage recently to perform with Ne-Yo?

Sanchez: Seeing the stage, it was like my second home, and it's like I've been away from home for so long. That's where I experienced everything—the stress, the love, the tears, everything with the other nine people that I spent the year with. And it all came back to me and it hit me and I was like, 'I don't want to be here right now!' I was like tearing up and everything, but it was so much fun, and it was a big difference going onstage and performing with Ne-Yo.

AP: What were your first thoughts when you were offered a role on "Glee"?

Sanchez: Oh, I freaked out. Ryan Murphy called me in for a meeting...and he asked me, 'Have you ever acted before?' And I said, 'No. I've never acted before. I'm not going to lie to you, I've never acted.' I walked out and then a couple days later I get a call from my manager and she said that 'he wants you to be in the show,' and I'm like, 'What? I've never acted before. That's crazy!' But ever since then, and that was like right after ('Idol'), I've been taking acting classes and I've been really, really working on it. So hopefully it all pays off.

Lindsay Lohan enters rehab at Betty Ford Center

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan has checked into a rehab and will not face a probation violation for leaving another treatment facility after a few minutes, a prosecutor said Friday.

Santa Monica Chief Deputy City Attorney Terry White said he has received confirmation that Lohan has checked in to a rehab facility and he is satisfied with her location. He declined to say where Lohan is receiving treatment, but a source close to the actress who was not authorized to speak publicly said she has checked in to the Betty Ford Center in Rancho Mirage, California.

Lohan

The "Liz & Dick" star is required to spend 90 days in rehab as part of a plea deal in a misdemeanor case filed after a June car accident.

Lohan has also re-hired longtime attorney Shawn Holley to handle her case. White said he was in contact with Holley on Thursday evening after hours of uncertainty about the actress' whereabouts.

Attorney Mark Jay Heller told a judge during a hearing Thursday that Lohan had checked in to a different rehab facility, but the starlet left it after a few minutes.

Usher gets ready for role as Sugar Ray Leonard

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Grammy-winning singer Usher believes his dancing skills will help him in his upcoming role as Sugar Ray Leonard in "Hands of Stone," a new boxing film about the great brawler Roberto Duran.

Usher

Usher said he has been preparing to play Leonard—a fighter with fast hands, smooth feet and a wide smile—for more than a year and still needs to lose nearly 25 pounds (11 kilograms) before shooting begins in October.

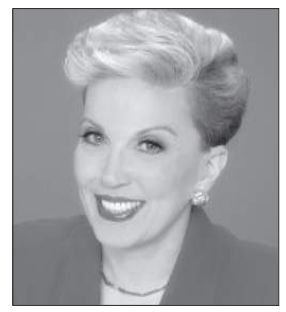
The movie is based on Duran, a world champion in four weight divisions over a career that spanned five decades. Duran, whose nickname was "Hands of Stone," rose from the slums of Panama to defeat an unbeaten Leonard in 1980 and claim the WBC welterweight title, only to lose the rematch several months later in the infamous "no mas" fight.

Usher said he was honored to play Leonard in the film.

"You couldn't find a more stylized boxer than Sugar Ray Leonard," Usher said by telephone. "He was an incredible motion guy, the way he moved around the ring, and I think my dancing will make it easier for me to pick up his moves. I've been working on familiarizing myself with the ring, sparring and just understanding how to move in the ring."

Grandma can speak up to keep phone conversations private

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My granddaughter and her boyfriend live in another state, and I love hearing from her. However, when I call her, she always puts me on speaker phone, which I find rude.

I have never met her boyfriend and don't feel he should be in on everything I may talk to my granddaughter about. I think she's forming a bad habit. Am I wrong for feeling this way?

PRIVATE GRANDMA IN FLORIDA

DEAR PRIVATE: I don't think so. Not every word that comes out of your mouth should be community property. The next time it happens, all you have to do is say, "Honey, take me off the speaker, please."

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Carlene," is a neonatal ICU nurse who is required to work a certain number of holidays. For the past 12 years, her family has feigned attempting to accommodate her schedule and then planned holiday events at the same exact time and place as the year before. They have ignored repeated explanations and don't seem to care if we come or not.

For example, last Thanksgiving they once again made a big deal about everyone sending their schedules via email. We responded that Carlene would have to work until 3 p.m. Shortly after, we received a call from the host, who said: "We know you can't make it, but the celebration will be at 12 sharp! Maybe we'll see you some other time."

Abby, my wife feels like she is unimportant to everyone. She plans to stop attending all family events and celebrate only with me and our daughter. While that would be easier, I know it probably isn't the best solution. Should I support her decision, or is there some answer I haven't thought of yet?

LET DOWN IN TEXAS

DEAR LET DOWN: Your wife should make no decisions about future celebrations while she's angry. If she follows through on her impulse to boycott all family events, she will be cutting her nose off to spite her face.

On those occasions when it's not possible to attend extended family gatherings, celebrating with immediate family seems like a sensible solution. Or consider hosting the celebration yourselves so you can set the party time.

Your wife may have self-esteem issues that need to be addressed if she's taking this personally. As a nurse caring for the most fragile of infants, she's doing important work that should be respected. Please tell her to remind herself of that fact any time she feels "unimportant" because her efforts make the difference between life and death.

DEAR ABBY: I got pregnant by a man I'll call "Ryan," who was just a fling. When I told him, he told me to have an abortion. He even had a friend of his call, offer to pay for it and drive me.

Instead, I decided to "abort" Ryan from my life. I never told him when our baby was born. Part of me feels bad because I think every child should know his/her father and family members. Another man has been willing to step up and be a daddy for my child.

Should I even bother to let Ryan know? Should I give him a chance to rise to the occasion or keep things the way they are?

LIVING MY LIFE IN INDIANA

DEAR LIVING YOUR LIFE: This is really a question you should ask a lawyer, just in case Ryan has already risen as much as he intends to. Whether or not someone has stepped up to be your baby's daddy, Ryan has a financial obligation to that child.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HI CALVIN.
I SEE YOU WASTED YOUR TIME DRAWING A SAFETY POSTER FOR THE SCHOOL CONTEST.
I DIDN'T WASTE MY TIME!
SURE YOU DID. THE WINNING ENTRY IS RIGHT HERE. THE PRIZE IS AS GOOD AS MINE.
"BE CAREFUL OR BE ROADKILL!" THAT'S REALLY DISGUSTING.
THANK YOU.
WHAT IS THAT ALL OVER THE DRAWING?
CHUNKY SPAGHETTI SAUCE!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

NOT A GOOD MORNING, GARFIELD
I TIED MY SHOELACES TOGETHER!
NOW I HAVE TO TAKE TINY STEPS!
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO START PAYING ME TO LIVE HERE
JIM DAVIS 5-6

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAD, WE'D LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO OUR PUPPET SHOW.
WELL, THANK YOU!
IT'S AT 4:00. PROMPTLY.
OKAY. LET ME PUT THAT IN MY SCHEDULE.
SO, I HAVE YOU AND MOM ON THE GUEST LIST.
WHAT ABOUT NICK?
NICK'S OUR USHER. WE'LL SEE YOU THEN.
AND WEAR SOMETHING CLASSY.
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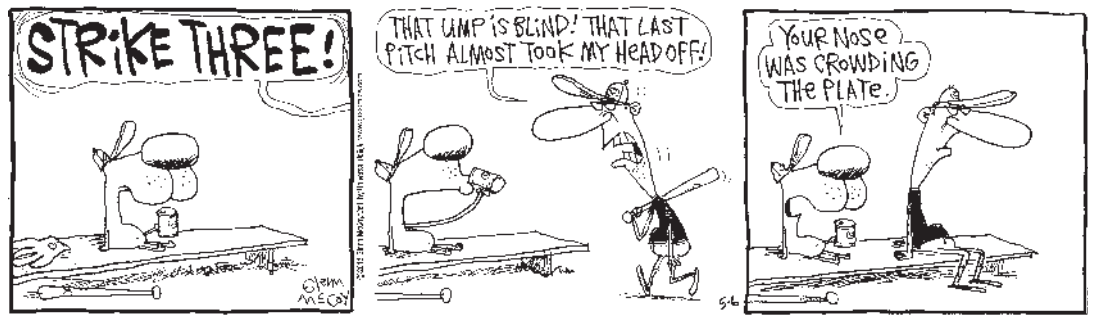
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

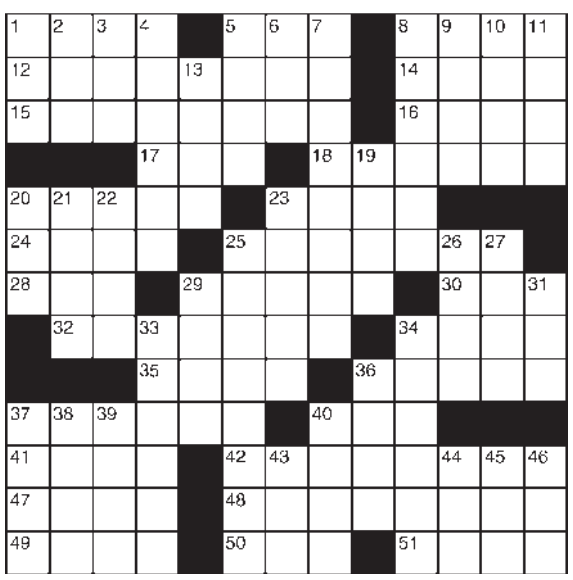
ACROSS
1 Move like molasses
5 High card
8 Judicial garment
12 Place for sports reporters
14 Vivacity
15 Aware
16 Flex
17 Do sums
18 Kindle downloads
20 Sew loosely
23 Liveliness, in music
24 Wheelbase terminus
25 Obama's old title
28 — de Janeiro
29 Hawaiian dances
30 Deity
32 Dakar's country
34 Salver
35 Baccha-nalian blast
36 Yonder
37 Hallux, more commonly
40 That girl
41 "Superfood" berry
42 Mexican miss
47 Showroom sample
48 One of three rulers
49 Paradise
50 Tree fluid
51 Harmonization

DOWN
1 Wife of Saturn
2 Raw rock
3 Buddhist sect
4 Mansion and its surroundings
5 Sleeping
6 Opposed
7 Outer
8 Start the PC up again
9 Bread spread
10 Savings institution
11 Make — meet
13 Faction
19 Prejudice
20 Tavern
21 Line of symmetry
22 — gin fizz
23 Stop, at sea
25 Hints at
26 Shrek is one
27 Bellow
29 Medal earner
31 Coloring agent
33 Idea
34 Gas bill units
36 Commandment starter
37 Commanded
38 On the rocks
39 Chess or checkers
40 Use scissors
43 Historic time
44 Wall climber
45 Can metal
46 Joan of —

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	S	P		R	I	L	E		S	O	D	A
T	E	E		E	V	I	L		A	N	E	W
M	A	R	S	H	A	L	L		L	U	L	L
		J	O	A	N			O	A	S	I	S
P	L	U	M	B		B	E	R	M			
R	A	R	E		M	A	R	Z	I	P	A	N
I	V	E		V	E	R	S	O		E	M	U
M	A	R	R	I	A	G	E		O	D	I	N
			H	A	T	E		S	K	I	D	S
R	E	P	E	L			B	E	R	G		
I	C	E	S		M	A	R	G	A	R	E	T
T	H	O	U		E	S	A	U		E	R	A
E	O	N	S		T	I	M	E		E	R	B

Friday's answer 5-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gabourey Sidibe, 30; George Clooney, 52; Tom Bergeron, 58; Willie Mays, 82

Happy Birthday: You'll have the drive and tenacity to reach your goals. Plan your actions and execute them with vigor. Make your demands and offer your services, loyalty and commitment to whomever you want in your life personally or professionally. Incorporate past experience into whatever you do in the present and the future. Love is highlighted. Your numbers are 5, 9, 16, 27, 35, 39, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You may want a little more excitement in your life, but first things first. Get your responsibilities taken care of. It's how you handle the people around you that will count. Let your knowledge and past experience lead the way. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Broaden your horizons. Taking a course or business trip will help open up new opportunities. Share your insight and plans for the future with a partner or someone you'd like to do more with and you will come up with a great plan. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You may be forced to deal with institutions, large corporations or secret matters that require your urgent attention. Prepare to make alternate plans or last-minute changes if it will help you get ahead or get something done. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Help others or volunteer your services for a worthy cause. Don't let your personal opinions interfere with what needs to be done. Focus more on what you can do for others, not what you can get others to do for you. Avoid impulsiveness. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): A change will do you good. Whether you travel to a new location or sign up to participate in something that intrigues you, it will lower your stress and give you time to figure out the best way to handle a difficult situation. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Share your time and expertise with people you enjoy being with. A short trip that will add to your knowledge or bring you the opportunity to meet new acquaintances will be successful. Avoid an impulsive purchase or decision. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll be drawn to unusual pastimes and people. You may want to change your lifestyle, but before you do, consider the cost involved and the opposition you will face. A change of attitude or reassessment of your situation is required. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A partnership will help you open up creatively. An offer you receive will be too good to turn down. A change in status and reputation is apparent. An unusual living arrangement will enhance your productivity. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): A sudden change of plans will benefit you at home and in your personal life. A move or altering your living space will help you develop a new set of rules and schedule. Don't hesitate to say what's on your mind. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can pick and choose, so slow down and don't allow anyone the chance to pressure or push you into something you feel uncertain about. Time is on your side, and it's you who will benefit if you think matters through clearly. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Someone you get along with or who owes you a favor will have something to offer. Discuss your plans and you'll find a way to combine your plans. Communication must be made very clear and contractual matters put in place. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Investments based on long-term plans or ideas should be brought to the forefront. Negotiate what you want and how you would like to proceed. Love is highlighted along with a promise that will lead to greater security and stability. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are helpful, honest and steadfast. You are reliable and responsible.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4		7		8		5	
3				4				8
	7						3	
		6	2		9	4		
	2	4				5	6	
		7	4		3	2		
	5						1	
8				1				9
	1		3		2		7	

Difficulty Level ★ 5/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

1	8	2	6	7	3	4	9	5
9	7	5	2	1	4	8	3	6
3	6	4	5	8	9	7	2	1
6	9	1	8	3	2	5	4	7
4	5	8	7	9	6	2	1	3
2	3	7	4	5	1	9	6	8
7	4	9	3	6	5	1	8	2
5	2	3	1	4	8	6	7	9
8	1	6	9	2	7	3	5	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MELISSA McCARTHY Solution: 7 letters

N	E	T	Y	E	A	Y	T	R	A	P	L	A	N	G
I	T	A	N	L	T	T	A	C	C	L	A	I	M	I
A	I	M	N	V	L	T	I	M	O	N	A	R	B	R
T	R	M	E	E	I	O	E	R	O	L	E	Ⓢ	A	L
P	W	Y	J	N	W	V	M	G	E	M	Ⓣ	S	C	S
A	H	T	S	O	I	Y	I	R	R	Ⓐ	H	H	K	D
C	E	I	A	C	N	T	O	A	Ⓡ	O	I	O	U	I
O	E	T	R	L	S	L	F	R	N	C	E	W	P	A
O	L	N	D	A	P	H	M	I	K	E	F	G	U	M
K	S	E	N	F	I	A	O	E	N	N	S	I	M	S
O	I	D	A	D	R	U	N	O	P	I	K	L	P	E
F	T	I	S	N	E	H	E	A	T	N	C	M	K	D
F	C	A	N	E	D	R	I	H	T	E	O	O	I	I
S	O	O	K	I	E	E	G	A	T	S	R	R	N	R
I	M	P	R	O	V	P	R	O	D	U	C	E	R	B

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Last Friday's Answer: Refreshed

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JVA No. 13-027

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Closing Date: Friday, May 10, 2013

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CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

POSITION(S): Six (6).

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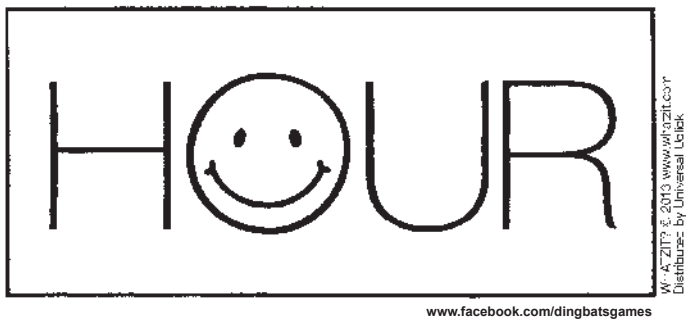

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Bulls beat Nets 99-93 in Game 7

NEW YORK (AP)—Joakim Noah climbed over the baseline seats, his foot that hurt so much two weeks ago that he feared he couldn't play looking pain-free as he embraced his mother.

The first Game 7 in Brooklyn belonged not to the Nets, but to the guy who played here in high school.

"I'll remember this for the rest of my life," Noah said.

Injured, ill and just as determined as ever, the Chicago Bulls beat the Nets 99-93 on Saturday night to win the first-round series.

Noah had 24 points and 14 rebounds, and Marco Belinelli also scored 24 points to help the Bulls advance to a second-round series against defending champion Miami that starts Monday night.

Carlos Boozer added 17 points as the Bulls shook off injuries to two starters and every run the Nets tried to make in the second half to win a Game 7 on the road for the first time in franchise history.

"I'm just so proud of this team. We've been fighting through so much all year and to be in this situation, play on the biggest stage in the world and to be able to win and now play against the Heat, all these experiences, I (don't) take those for granted," Noah said.

The Bulls opened a 17-point halftime lead with a rare offensive outburst, and found a way to get big baskets every time the Nets pulled close to win the NBA's only do-or-die game of the first round.

"I thought our guys, we took a big punch in Game 1 and we kept fighting back and that's been the story of the season," Bulls coach Tom Thibodeau said.

Deron Williams had 24 points, seven assists and six rebounds for the Nets. They were trying to become the ninth NBA team to win a series after trailing 3-1.

But they had a horrendous first-half defensive performance and Joe Johnson was bad all game on offense, finishing with six points on 2-of-14 shooting, including 1 of 9 from 3-point range.

With Luol Deng (illness) and Kirk Hinrich (bruised left calf) out again and Derrick Rose still not ready to return from last year's torn ACL, the Bulls leaned on Noah, who could barely play when the Bulls were blown out here two weeks ago in Game 1 because of plantar fasciitis in his right foot. He logged 41 minutes and shot 12 of 17 while also blocking six shots.

"It's disappointing. We won Game 6, we felt like this was our series, but they came out and played a great game," Williams said. "Noah, like I said, he's a warrior. He battled through his injuries and just had a monster game. We really had no answers for him down low tonight."

Noah helped the Bulls spoil the Nets' first home Game 7 in their NBA history at the end of their first season in Brooklyn. They had played only one Game 7 in all their years while they were based in New Jersey, falling at Detroit in 2004.

Chicago improved to 1-6 in road Game 7s.

Deng, tested for meningitis earlier in the week, was back in the hospital Friday night and unable to travel. Hinrich warmed up in hopes of playing before he was ruled out.

It didn't matter to the Bulls, who backed up Thibodeau's vow that they would have no excuses and play well.

Coming out ready to work, the Bulls got their first two baskets on offensive rebounds by Boozer and Noah, and they led most of the first quarter before bringing a 29-25 lead to the second on Taj Gibson's jumper with 0.8 seconds left.

It was 40-36 before the Bulls took control with solid offensive execution and poor Nets defense. Noah had consecutive baskets before seldom-used Daequan Cook made a 3-pointer to cap an 11-2 run, and after a basket by Andray Blatche, Boozer, Nate Robinson and Noah ran off the next six points to give Chicago a 57-40 lead as the crowd began to boo.

"I think we weren't as aggressive as they were, especially on the boards and the defensive end in the first half," Nets interim coach P.J. Carlesimo said.

The Bulls capped it with a stunningly easy dunk by Boozer with 1.2 seconds left off an inbounds pass, sending the Bulls to the locker room with a 61-44 advantage.

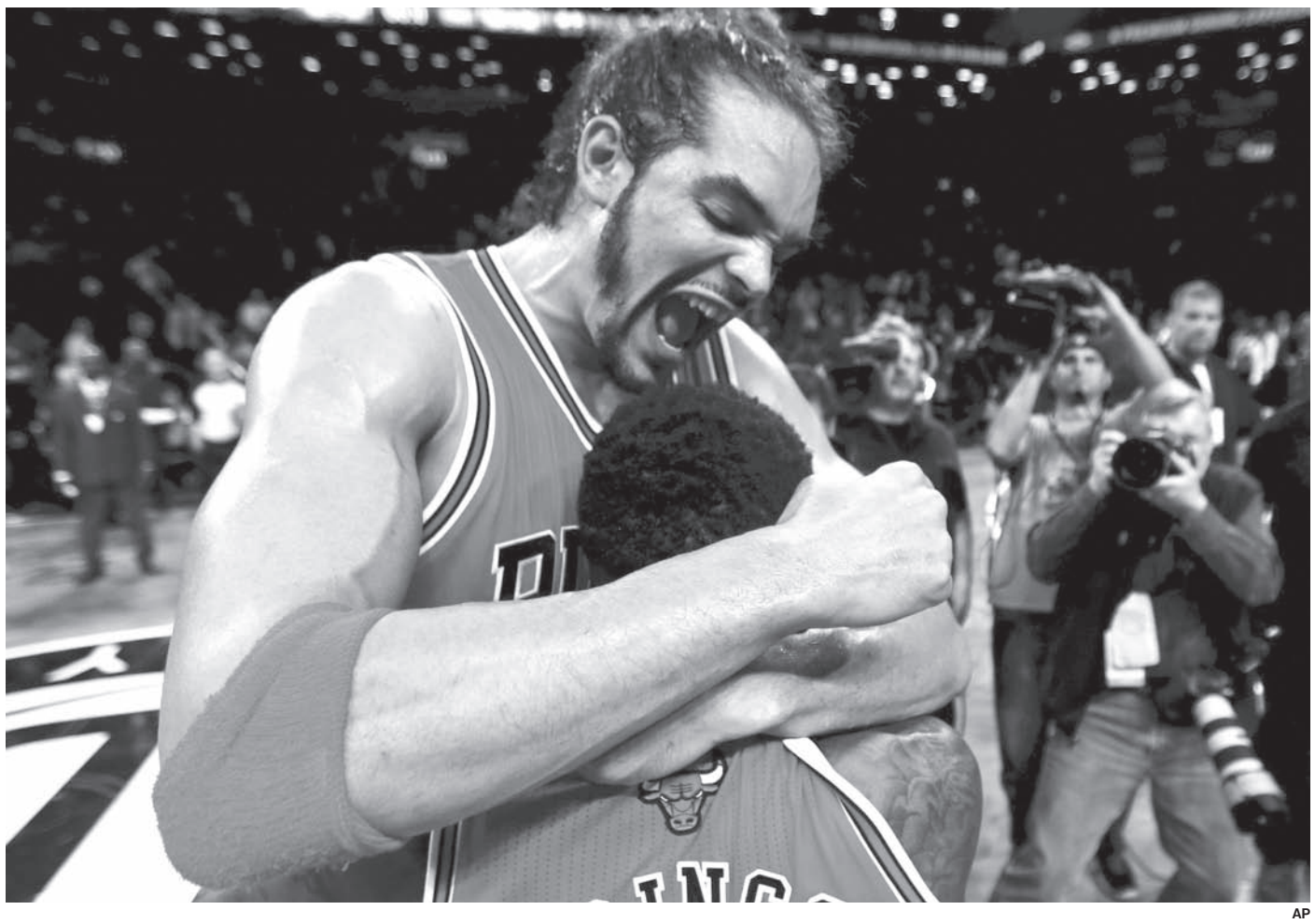
Brooklyn burst out of the locker room with a 10-4 run, and back-to-back 3-pointers later in the third period by Gerald Wallace kicked off an 11-2 surge that got the Nets within 69-65 on Williams' free throw with 5:29 left.

Jimmy Butler hit a 3-pointer and Robinson scored to steady the Bulls and push the lead back to nine, and they led 82-75 after three.

The Nets opened the fourth with just one point in the first five minutes as consecutive baskets by Boozer pushed the lead back into double digits. The Nets kept trying to get back in it, getting it all the way down to four on a 3-pointer by Williams with 26 seconds left, but Belinelli hit four free throws from there.

Brook Lopez had 21 points and nine rebounds, and Wallace finished with 19 points for the Nets, who finished a successful first season in Brooklyn in a disappointing way, getting booed late in the first half while allowing Chicago to make eight of its final 12 shots.

Robinson finished with 12 points in his second straight start in place of Hinrich.



AP

Chicago Bulls' Joakim Noah, top, celebrates with teammate Nate Robinson after defeating the Brooklyn Nets 99-93 in Game 7 of their first-round NBA basketball playoff series in New York, Saturday, May 4, 2013.

Orb comes from behind to win Kentucky Derby

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Way back in the pack heading into the final turn, Orb was calm even if his jockey wasn't.

Churning through a sloppy track that resembled creamy peanut butter, the bay colt picked up speed and, one by one, blew past rivals.

By that time, jockey Joel Rosario knew he was aboard the Kentucky Derby winner.

Orb powered to a 2 1/2-length victory Saturday at Churchill Downs, giving trainer Shug McGaughey and Rosario their first Derby wins.

"I was so far behind," Rosario said. "He was very relaxed. It's exactly what I wanted."

Rosario had Orb in the clear on the outside and they forged to the lead in deep stretch, with enough momentum to hold off 34-1 shot Golden Soul.

It was a popular victory before a crowd of 151,616, which poured enough late money on Orb to make him the 5-1 favorite, a position Revolutionary had owned most of the day.

McGaughey, a 62-year-old native of Lexington, finally got the Derby win he had long sought. Orb was just his second starter since 1989, when he settled for second after Sunday Silence beat Easy Goer on a muddy track.

"It means everything to me," the Hall of Famer said. "I've always dreamed of this day and it finally came."

The race was dominated by closers. Golden Soul rallied from 15th to second, while Revolutionary was 18th at one point and finished third for trainer Todd Pletcher. Normandy Invasion finished fourth.

Orb paid $12.80, $7.40 and $5.40. Golden Soul returned $38.60 and $19.40, while Revolutionary paid $5.40 to show.

Mylute was fifth, followed by Oxbow, Lines of Battle, Will Take Charge and Charming Kitten. Giant Finish was 10th, then came Overanalyze, Palace Malice, Java's War, Verrazano, Itsmyluckyday, Frac Daddy, Goldencents, Vyjack and Falling Sky.

The second leg of thoroughbred racing's Triple Crown will be May 18 when the Preakness Stakes is held at Pimlico.

The rain that pelted the track earlier in the day had stopped by the time 19 horses paraded to the post for the 139th Derby. While it created a gloppy surface, it didn't seem to bother Orb, who had never previously run on a wet track.

"I said, `A day like today might have cost me one Kentucky Derby, maybe it'll turn around and help us today," McGaughey said.

His triumph was a victory for the old school of racing, where a private trainer like McGaughey works exclusively for wealthy owners—in this case Stuart Janney and Ogden Mills "Dinny" Phipps.

"The Phippses and Janneys has been my whole life for 20 some years now, and have really kind of given me everything I've got," said McGaughey, who never lost his thick Southern drawl despite years of working in New York.

"I'm extremely proud to be able to work with people such as this. To bring a day like today into their lives is just a huge, huge thrill for me. All I can do is just say thanks for the opportunity," he said.

First cousins Janney and 72-year-old Dinny Phipps, who are among the sport's blue bloods that include the old-money Whitney and Vanderbilt families, also got their first gold Derby trophy.

"I just couldn't be more delighted that we're doing this together," the 64-year-old Janney said.

Phipps' late father, Ogden, owned Easy Goer and undefeated Personal Ensign. Janney's parents owned star filly Ruffian.

"This horse's bloodline goes back to our grandmother," Janney said. "Dinny's father was very instrumental in getting me to take over my parents' horses 20 some years ago."

When the horses burst from the gates, Palace Malice and Mike Smith set a sizzling pace that couldn't be sustained.

On the far turn, the pack closed in on the leader, with Oxbow attacking from the inside and Normandy Invasion moving up on the outside to take the lead.

Rosario positioned Orb in the clear on the outside and they reeled in Normandy Invasion in mid-stretch before surging clear.

History was denied on several fronts:

■ Pletcher's Derby record fell to 1 for 36 after sending out a record-tying five horses for the second time in his career. Besides Revolutionary, Charming Kitten was ninth; Overanalyze was 11th; early pacesetter Palace Malice was 12th; and previously unbeaten Verrazano was 14th.

■ Rosie Napravnik's bid to become the first woman jockey to win ended with a fifth-place finish aboard Mylute. It was still the highest finish by a woman rider, bettering her ninth-place showing two years ago.

■ Kevin Krigger failed in his attempt to be the first black jockey to win since 1902. He rode Goldencents to a 17th-place finish for trainer Doug O'Neill, who won last year with I'll Have Another. Rick Pitino owns 5 percent of the colt, who couldn't deliver a horses/hoops double for the coach of the national champion Louisville basketball team.

■ D. Wayne Lukas missed out on becoming the oldest trainer to win at 77. He saddled two horses: Oxbow was sixth with 50-year-old Gary Stevens making a Derby comeback after seven years in retirement, and Will Take Charge was eighth.

Orb was the second Derby starter for both Janney and Phipps, whose previous entries were in 1988 and `89. Their family wealth allows them to race the horses they breed, unlike the majority of current owners who are involved through partnerships that split up the exorbitant costs of the sport.

"Take your time," Phipps said, referring to the group's way of doing things. "Let the horse bring you to the race."

The cousins' grandfather, Henry Phipps, founded wealth management firm Bessemer Trust in 1907. Janney serves as chairman, while Dinny Phipps is its director. He also chairs The Jockey Club, which regulates the registration of thoroughbreds, while Janney is vice chairman.

Mickelson, Watney tied for lead at Quail Hollow

WELLS FARGO CHAMPIONSHIP

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Phil Mickelson's ball was just above the edge of the cart path, slightly below his feet, when he decided to hit a hard fade around the trees toward the green. The shot went out-of-bounds and cost him the outright lead Saturday in the Wells Fargo Championship, and Mickelson was angry about his decision.

He felt he should have hit driver instead of 3-wood.

In the group ahead of him, new leader Nick Watney hit a semi-shank with a 6-iron on the par-3 17th, the ball flying toward a hospitality tent. He made double bogey, and pulled his cap over his face when the round was over to hide a mixture of anger and embarrassment.

And these were the co-leaders going into the final round at Quail Hollow.

A series of blunders in the last hour of the third round shook up the Wells Fargo Championship, and the only consolation for Mickelson and Watney is that they were atop the leaderboard going into a final round that features a forecast of rain.

"Every shot is critical. You just can't throw a bunch of shots away like I did coming down the stretch," said Mickelson, who also plunked a spectator in the head with his approach on the 16th and made bogey. "I'm fortunate to still be on top."

AP

Phil Mickelson reacts after making a birdie putt on the 14th hole during the third round of the Wells Fargo Championship golf tournament at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, N.C., Saturday, May 4, 2013.

Mickelson had a 1-over 73, while Watney squandered a solid round with his shank that led to a 71. They were at 8-under 208, one shot ahead of George McNeill, who also dropped two shots over the last four holes for a 72.

"I can't remember the last time I did that in a tournament, so it was a bit unsettling" Watney said about his shank. "The big picture? I'm tied for the lead, and I would have taken that on Thursday morning."

Even so, what had been shaping up as duel now looks more like a shootout, with a dozen players within three shots of the lead.

One of them was Rory McIlroy, who celebrated his 24th birthday by missing seven putts in the 5-foot range or closer. He had a 73 and didn't lose any ground on the lead.

"I think they may have given me a little bit of a birthday present right there," McIlroy said. "I'm only three back heading into tomorrow, and that's as good as I could ask for."

John Senden completed his round of 67 some three hours before the leaders finished. Ryan Moore was right behind him with a 68. They were among six players who were tied for fourth, two shots behind. That group included Lee Westwood, who made two birdies and two bogeys in his otherwise boring round of 72.

The starting time for Sunday has been moved up because of rain in the forecast, with the final round starting at 6:45 a.m. Given the forecast, Mickelson treated Saturday like the final round in case Sunday—and perhaps even Monday—is a wash and the tournament is reduced to 54 holes. He made a 7-foot par putt on the 18th to tie Watney.

"It was some poor play coming down the stretch," Mickelson said.

McIlroy didn't need to be reminded that it was his birthday. Fans serenaded or shouted to him on just about every hole. If all he wanted was to make some putts, Boy Wonder didn't get his wish. At times, it became a cruel joke.

He stuffed his shot into just inside 3 feet on the third hole and missed the birdie, and that was just the start of it. He missed another putt inside 3 feet that gave him a double bogey on the ninth hole. Add it up and McIlroy missed seven putts from the 5-foot range, along with a 7-foot putt on the eighth.After all that, he's still in the mix.

"I just couldn't hole anything today," McIlroy said. "I think when you miss a few putts on these greens, you sort of lose confidence in your stroke and then it's just sort of hard to commit fully to what you want to do. If I want to hole some putts tomorrow, I need to do a better job of that."

Fernandez dominates Phillies, Marlins win

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Jose Fernandez pitched one-hit ball and struck out nine in seven dominant innings, getting his first major league win in the Miami Marlins' 2-0 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies on Saturday night.

Marcell Ozuna hit his first career homer and Chris Valaika connected for the first time in three years to stop Cole Hamels (1-4).

Fernandez (1-2) allowed just a single by Freddy Galvis up the middle in the first. He then retired the next 17 batters.

Fernandez walked Galvis in the seventh, and followed that up by striking out Chase Utley, Ryan Howard and Delmon Young.

The 20-year-old Fernandez was lifted after throwing 82 pitches. Mike Dunn worked a perfect eighth and Steve Cishek finished off the one-hitter to get his fourth save in five tries.

Giants 10, Dodgers 9, 10 innings

In San Francisco, pinch hitter Guillermo Quiroz homered with one out in the 10th inning, lifting San Francisco to its second straight walkoff win.

The Giants blew a 5-0 lead and wasted a bases-loaded opportunity in the ninth before Quiroz hit an 0-2 pitch from Dodgers closer Brandon League (0-1) into the left field stands. Quiroz is 4 for 6 this season as a pinch hitter.

The teams combined for 19 runs and 30 hits, and stranded 24 runners in a game that lasted 4 hours, 11 minutes.

A.J. Ellis homered and was one of six Dodgers with two hits as Los Angeles lost for the fifth time in seven games.

Nationals 5, Pirates 4

In Pittsburgh, Stephen Strasburg struck out eight in seven innings and Washington won a game he started for the first time since opening day.

Tyler Moore hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the top of the ninth inning off Tony Watson (1-1). Wilson Ramos' RBI single in the sixth tied the game at 4 after Pittsburgh built a two-run lead.

A day after striking out four times upon being activated from the disabled list, Ryan Zimmerman scored three runs.

Starling Marte and Clint Barmes each hit two-run homers for the Pirates.

Diamondbacks 8, Padres 1

In San Diego, Patrick Corbin pitched seven solid innings and Arizona snapped its season-high four-game losing streak.

Corbin (4-0) gave up one run and five hits while striking out seven. He walked three while his ERA dropped to 1.80. Corbin has opened the season by pitching at least six innings and allowing two or fewer runs in his six starts—all Arizona victories.

Cardinals 7, Brewers 6

In Milwaukee, Jon Jay homered and drove in the go-ahead run in the ninth, and Allen Craig and Daniel Descalso each hit home runs to power St. Louis.

Shane Robinson singled to center off Jim Henderson (2-1) and took second on center fielder Carlos Gomez's fielding error. Robinson stole third and scored when Jay singled up the middle.

Jay hit a three-run home run in the second, Craig connected for a solo shot in the sixth and Descalso put the Cardinals ahead with a two-run homer in the seventh.

Reds 6, Cubs 4

In Chicago, Todd Frazier and Devin Mesoraco each had a sacrifice fly in a four-run eighth inning, and Cincinnati rallied for the victory over Chicago.

Cincinnati had just one hit in the decisive rally, but took advantage of another woeful outing by reliever Carlos Marmol to secure its first winning road series of the season. The Reds held on for a 6-5 victory in the opener on Friday when Darwin Barney struck out with the bases loaded to end the game.

Alfonso Soriano hit a pair of two-run homers for the Cubs, who have lost four of five. It was Soriano's 31st career multihomer game.

Rockies 9, Rays 3

In Denver, Carlos Gonzalez hit a go-ahead homer in the fifth and rookie Nolan Arenado added a grand slam, lifting Colorado over Tampa Bay in David Price's first start since his run-in with umpire Tom Hallion.

Jon Garland (3-2) threw five solid innings and surrendered three runs to help the Rockies snap an 11-game home skid in interleague play.

Arenado broke open a tight game when he lined a curveball from Price (1-3) into the left field seats in the seventh. It was his first career grand slam.

Tigers 17, Astros 2

In Houston, Miguel Cabrera hit two home runs and tied a career high with six RBIs, leading the Detroit Tigers over the Houston Astros 17-2 on Saturday night.

Cabrera went 4 for 4 with a walk. Last year's Triple Crown winner is hitting .390 this season.

Mariners 8, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, Dustin Ackley hit his first career grand slam, Michael Saunders homered twice and the Seattle Mariners roughed up reigning NL Cy Young winner R.A. Dickey, beating the struggling Toronto Blue Jays.

Pitching on an extra day of rest as he tried to overcome neck and back soreness, Dickey (2-5) lost his third straight start. He allowed six hits, including a season-high three home runs.

Orioles 5, Angels 4, 10 innings

In Anaheim, Calif., Steve Pearce's RBI single with two outs in the 10th inning lifted the Baltimore Orioles over the Los Angeles Angels.

Baltimore also got homers from Manny Machado, J.J. Hardy and Nolan Reimold.

Rangers 5, Red Sox 1

In Arlington, Texas, Craig Gentry had an infield hit that produced two runs and later hit a two-run homer in Texas' victory over Boston.

The Rangers broke a 1-1 tie and went ahead to stay on the speedy Gentry's infield hit in the fourth. He added his first homer in the eighth.

Alexi Ogando (3-2) pitched into the seventh inning for his first victory in five starts and the AL West-leading Rangers (19-11) clinched the series against the Red Sox (20-10), who still have the best record in the majors even after losing the first two games.

Indians 7, Twins 3

In Cleveland, Scott Kazmir earned his first victory in three seasons, Nick Swisher homered in his first at-bat since missing three games with a sore shoulder and the Cleveland Indians beat Minnesota for their sixth straight victory.

Kazmir (1-1), a two-time AL All-Star who pitched in an independent league last season, allowed two runs in six innings. It was his first win since beating Tampa Bay on Sept. 19, 2010, while with the Angels.

Yankees 4, Athletics 2

In New York, Phil Hughes pitched eight shutout innings of four-hit ball for his first win of the season, and the New York Yankees beat the Oakland Athletics.

Chris Stewart and Lyle Overbay homered against Bartolo Colon (3-1), sending the A's to their only loss in the right-hander's six starts this year. Hughes (1-2) struck out nine and outpitched his former New York teammate for his first victory since Sept. 20 against Toronto.

Royals 2, White Sox 0

In Kansas City, Mo., Jeremy Guthrie ran his unbeaten streak to a club-record 17 consecutive starts with a four-hitter in the Kansas City Royals' win over the Chicago White Sox.

Guthrie is 9-0 in the 17 starts, which started Aug. 8, 2012, against the White Sox. Paul Splittorff held the Royals' record with 16 straight undefeated starts in 1977-78.

BREWERS

From Page 28

erected a promising 10-1 lead after five complete innings.

Starting pitcher Vince Cepeda struck out six, allowed only two hits and walked three to put the Yankees in control of the match. However, fatigue took its toll on Cepeda in the next two innings and the Yankees capitalized, scoring three runs in the third and four more against the Brewers' starter.

The Yankees had already sliced the deficit to two, 8-10, before Brewers manager Tony Rogolifoi decided he had seen enough and called in Ton Camacho, who needed only one out to close the pivotal bottom of the seventh. However, the relief pitcher also struggled in his early stint on the mound, giving up two more runs and allowing four hits.A sacrifice fly from Greg Camacho drove home Kaipat and tied the match at 10-all before the Brewers finally stopped the bleeding, catching A.J. Lizama stealing second base with Jerome Delos Santos going for his second at-bat in that inning.

The Yankees got one strike and two fly balls in the top of the eighth, boosting their chances to steal the lead. However, Ton Camacho answered with two strikes at the bottom of the eighth and leadoff batter Delos Santos was tag out at third, foiling the Yankees' bid.

At the top of the last inning, Guerrero led off for the Brewers and flied out to third, while Marvin Kaipat went down on a 5-3 putout play, putting their pennant campaign in danger. Jun Rabauliman then gave some life on the Brewers' dying chances with a single to right field and a stolen dish. He later reached home, as Saralu made contact with the ball after being called for two early strikes with his single going over the head of the Yankees shortstop and left fielder.

The Yankees failed to get the needed one out in the ensuing plays despite Dave Camacho earning two more strikes against the designated hitter Pangelinan. With a full count, Pangelinan finally hit his target and drove home Saralu. Camacho got the third out, striking Mike Iguel out and leaving Manny Sablan and Pangelinan stranded on second and first, respectively. However, that last defensive play could not spark another Yankees rally at the bottom of the ninth, as this time the Brewers' defense was at point, booting out the first three batters.

Meanwhile, with their pennant win, the Brewers also earned the top seeding in the playoffs and will collide against the D-9ers in a best-of-three semis series this week. The defending champions Yankees dropped to second and will duel the IP&E Fielders in the other semis pairing.

CNMI

From Page 28

mark toward the left side of the end zone against only a lone Guam defender, but with his back turned against the ball, the leather dropped in between his hands.

The CNMI Sharks had another scoring opportunity with about three minutes left in the match, this time with backup quarterback Oscar Sablan throwing a 30-yard pass to another receiver on the right side of the end zone, just inside the 10-yard line. However, Guam cornerback Chris Camacho intercepted the pass, returning possession to the visitors, who ran down the clock in the end to shut out the Sharks.

Besides the two scoring opportunities, the CNMI Sharks also made two complete passes in the fourth to gain a few yardage, while Vincent Kaipat also ran for a few yards for the host.

As for the Guam selection, after a scoreless first quarter, it managed to get into the board in the closing minute of the second canto, 6-0, courtesy of quarterback Will Williams. The Guam signal-caller saw the CNMI Sharks defense collapsing on the right side, so he ran more than 10 yards toward the left and eluded several defenders. Guam made it an 8-0 halftime advantage, as it attempted a try and earned a two-point conversion off a Storm Rosario catch on the right end zone.

Then midway in the third period, Williams and Rosario teamed up anew with the former throwing 30 yards and Rosario recording the first touchdown in the match running toward the left end. Rosario caught the Sharks defenders off guard anew in the latter part of the third quarter, as he cut through the center with the defense loaded on the left and right ends and got William's 10-yard pass for the second TD.

The visitors managed to shut down the host despite having only 23 players on their roster, which was down to 21 after two got injured in the second half. Guam players made up for their shorthanded lineup by running the field well and showing more chemistry and quickness with Williams on several occasions getting away from tackles.

The CNMI Sharks had more than 50 players available for the game, but were left trying to feel each other's game and movements.

Despite the loss, Commonwealth Football League Association official John Blanco, who also suited up for the weekend match, hoped that with more players showing up in the friendly match, there will be enough players available to start holding games on Saipan again.

Guam selection leader Joel Limtiaco echoed Blanco's statement, saying CNMI players are promising and with the involvement of more players, reestablishing a league or competition here is not far-fetched. Limtiaco also vowed to return to Saipan and duel the CNMI Sharks again.

Meanwhile, the CFLA would like to thank the following for making last weekend's game possible: Marpac, Tan Holdings and TSL Foundation, Saipan Stevedore, CMS, IP&E, IT&E, and Saipan Apparel.

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 27

Galarse capped off the demolition, drilling three triples in the fourth canto.

First Game

Shirley's 115 – Vinas 25, Barrios 18, Metran 15, Peredo 14, Montes 13, Usi 7, Jugos 6, Sedillo 6, Yap 2.

Mobil 109 – Gamboa 41, Estolas 25, Muleta 20, Diaz 15, Galzote 3, Libayan 1.

Scoring by quarters: 31-35, 67-51, 93-80, 115-109.

Second Game

Mariana Resort 104 – Barbo 24, Galarse 23, Ocanada 17, Aquino 13, Abuy 13, Camacho 4, Delos Reyes 2.

Saipan Apparel 76 – Diaz 19, Teregeyo 16, Guerrero 15, Norita 9, Crisostimo 6, Lizama 5, Babauta 4.

Scoring by quarters: 20-19, 49-36, 84-58, 104-76.

MAYWEATHER

From Page 28

in eight years look befuddled as he danced and moved and shot out right hands with increasing frequency.

He remained unbeaten in 44 fights and, more importantly, looked so fresh that he may follow through on his plan to fight again in September.

"I was looking for the knockout but I hurt my hand," Mayweather said. "I feel bad I didn't give the fans the knockout."

Mayweather was booed at times for not mixing it up more, but he didn't need to. He was content to move and land jabs and right hand leads, while Guerrero grew increasingly frustrated trying to chase him.

When Guerrero did hit him, Mayweather quickly got out of the way and, more often than not, landed a right hand of his own.

"I landed some good shots on him," Guerrero said. "He's a great fighter. He's slick and quick."

The fight at the MGM Grand arena settled into a familiar pattern from the third round on as Mayweather made adjustments and started landing some crisp right leads to Guerrero's head. Guerrero was eager to trade punches, but often couldn't find Mayweather, who had already moved out of range.

Before the fight there had been some concern about Mayweather having ring rust after going a year without a fight. But he didn't miss a beat, using his defensive skills to baffle Guerrero and keep him off balance.

Mayweather was a 5-1 favorite coming into the fight, but Guerrero was considered dangerous coming off a big win over Andre Berto. Guerrero hadn't lost in eight years, and vowed to be the first to beat Mayweather, now 44-0.

But he had never fought Mayweather, who got hit more than normal in his last fight against Miguel Cotto a year ago.

"Honestly, Floyd could have danced the whole night," Floyd Mayweather Sr. said. "There wasn't anything he couldn't do in there tonight."

Mayweather had crafted much of his career using his defense as his main weapon, and said he turned to his father—who used to be his trainer—to regain his old style.

"After the Cotto fight I realized my defense wasn't what it should be and I had to hone my skills," Mayweather said.

By the fifth round Mayweather's confidence was growing and he began landing some heavy right hands to Guerrero's head. Guerrero kept plodding after him, but paid the price as Mayweather shot counter right hands through his defenses

Mayweather was faster and stronger than Guerrero, who was fighting for only the third time at 147 pounds. Mayweather said he hurt his right hand while going after the knockout in the eighth round, but still managed to control the fight round after round.

Guerrero (31-2-1) was cut over his left eye in the eighth round, when Mayweather seemed on the verge of stopping him.

Ringside punch stats showed Mayweather landing 60 percent of his power punches, an unusually high rate. That included 23 of 30 power punches in the eighth round, when Guerrero was wobbled.

All told, Mayweather was credited with landing 195 punches to 113 for Guerrero.

"He ran like a chicken," said Guerrero's trainer and father, Ruben. "I thought we were going to go toe-to-toe with him."

Robert Guerrero didn't complain about Mayweather's style at all. Not when he wants to fight him again some day.

"I'm going to keep fighting and hopefully before Floyd Mayweather retires I'm going to get that shot again," Guerrero said.

Mayweather said he planned to fight again in September, a short turnaround for him, as part of a six-fight deal he has with the Showtime network.

SEXY BOYS

From Page 27

scoreless in the King's second-quarter meldown, allowing the Sexy Boys to build a 43-29 halftime advantage.

The Sexy Boys never looked back from thereon, as it continued to get contributions from every player it fielded in the game in the second half. Four players finished in double figures for the Sexy Boys with Chris Esteves leading the way with his 17 markers. Herbert Maranan added 13, while Ralph Francisco and Eugene Manglona logged 12 and 11, respectively.

Flip Top 72, Wanted Sponsor 53

In the Bracket A match, Flip Top also improved to a 2-0 record after thumping the debuting Wanted Sponsor.

Wanted Sponsor fought a good fight in the first three quarters behind by only 5 points, 53-58, but fell apart in the fourth, making only one field goal and 5 points. Joey Siriban canned the lone field goal, while Jomer Diyco nailed two charities, and Sonny Lerio had one free throw in the fourth-quarter collapse.

Flip Top, on the other hand, had lesser problems on offense with Donald Hockett and Emerson Feria notching two field goals apiece and three other also making it to the scoreboard.

Dan Toribio did not score for Flip Top in the fourth, but had 6 of their last 8 points in the third canto, extending their 32-29 halftime lead to 5, 58-53. He went on to top-score for Flip Top with 16 points, while Feria chipped in10.

First Game

Flip Top 72 – Toribio 16, Feria 10, Salem 8, De Leon 8, Namelo 6, Hockett 6, Isip 6, Cabaltica 4, Fleming 4, Maratita 2.

Wanted Sponsor 59 – Diyco 18, Lerio 14, Cadag 11, Siriban 7, Deleon Guerrero 5, Danipog 1.

Scoring by quarter: 19-12, 32-29, 58-53, 72-59.

Second Game

Sexy Boys 77 – Esteves 18, Maranan 13, Francisco 12, Manglona 11, Caro 7, Tinio 5, Wood 3, Sablan 2.

King's 63 – Alegre 19, De Guzman 16, Hernaez 10, Barrios 6, Jugos 4, David 3, Quemado 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-19, 43-29, 57-47, 77-63

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	20	10	.667	_
New York	18	11	.621	1 1/2
Baltimore	18	13	.581	2 1/2
Tampa Bay	13	16	.448	6 1/2
Toronto	10	21	.323	10 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	18	11	.621	_
Kansas City	16	10	.615	1/2
Cleveland	14	13	.519	3
Minnesota	12	14	.462	4 1/2
Chicago	12	16	.429	5 1/2

West Division

Texas	19	11	.633	_
Oakland	17	14	.548	2 1/2
Seattle	15	17	.469	5
Los Angeles	11	19	.367	8
Houston	8	23	.258	11 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	17	12	.586	_
Washington	16	15	.516	2
Philadelphia	14	17	.452	4
New York	12	15	.444	4
Miami	9	22	.290	9

Central Division

St. Louis	19	11	.633	_
Pittsburgh	17	13	.567	2
Cincinnati	17	14	.548	2 1/2
Milwaukee	14	15	.483	4 1/2
Chicago	11	19	.367	8

West Division

Colorado	18	12	.600	_
San Francisco	18	12	.600	_
Arizona	16	14	.533	2
Los Angeles	13	16	.448	4 1/2
San Diego	12	18	.400	6

WELLS FARGO CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)– Scores Saturday from the Wells Fargo Championship, a US PGA Tour event at the 7,492-yard, par-72 Quail Hollow Club course:

THIRD ROUND

Nick Watney	67-70-71	–208
Phil Mickelson	68-67-73	–208
George McNeill	69-68-72	–209
John Senden	70-73-67	–210
Ryan Moore	67-75-68	–210
Robert Karlsson	69-72-69	–210
David Lynn	71-68-71	–210
Derek Ernst	67-71-72	–210
Lee Westwood	70-68-72	–210
Brian Harman	70-70-71	–211
D.A. Points	71-69-71	–211
Kevin Streelman	68-72-71	–211
Jason Kokrak	68-70-73	–211
Rory McIlroy	67-71-73	–211
Bo Van Pelt	74-70-68	–212
D.H. Lee	72-71-69	–212
Sergio Garcia	72-68-72	–212
Lucas Glover	68-71-73	–212
Rod Pampling	69-69-74	–212
John Merrick	74-71-68	–213
Henrik Norlander	74-70-69	–213
Charles Howell III	72-72-69	–213
Vaughn Taylor	70-72-71	–213
Russell Henley	69-71-73	–213
Scott Gardiner	70-67-76	–213
Shawn Stefani	69-73-72	–214
Ross Fisher	70-71-73	–214
Robert Garrigus	67-72-75	–214
Brian Davis	72-74-69	–215
Webb Simpson	70-74-71	–215
Lee Williams	73-71-71	–215
Richard H. Lee	73-70-72	–215
Chris Kirk	72-71-72	–215
John Rollins	69-74-72	–215
James Driscoll	70-72-73	–215
Kyle Stanley	74-68-73	–215
Jordan Spieth	69-71-75	–215
Daniel Summerhays	67-73-75	–215
Josh Teater	72-73-71	–216
Peter Tomasulo	71-73-72	–216
Martin Flores	73-71-72	–216
Bud Cauley	70-73-73	–216
Steve Marino	71-72-73	–216
Jimmy Walker	71-72-73	–216
David Hearn	69-72-75	–216
Ted Potter, Jr.	71-70-75	–216
Ryo Ishikawa	73-73-71	–217
Robert Allenby	76-70-71	–217
Luke List	71-75-71	–217
Geoff Ogilvy	74-72-71	–217
Pat Perez	76-69-72	–217
Brendon de Jonge	74-71-72	–217
Patrick Reed	70-74-73	–217
Gary Woodland	70-73-74	–217
Stuart Appleby	71-71-75	–217
Angel Cabrera	73-69-75	–217
Dicky Pride	71-71-75	–217
Zach Johnson	68-72-77	–217
James Hahn	72-74-72	–218
Steven Bowditch	69-76-73	–218
Casey Wittenberg	73-71-74	–218
Roberto Castro	71-73-74	–218
Luke Guthrie	74-69-75	–218
Nate Smith	67-74-77	–218
Will Claxton	73-73-73	–219
Tommy Gainey	74-72-73	–219
Hunter Haas	75-71-73	–219
Matteo Manassero	71-75-73	–219
Scott Brown	74-71-75	–220
Brad Fritsch	71-72-77	–220
Boo Weekley	68-75-77	–220
Trevor Immelman	70-72-78	–220

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shirley's barge into win column

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Shirley's got its first win in the 4th Shirley's Coffee Shop Basketball League after beating Mobil in a high-scoring game, 115-109, last Friday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

After being outgunned in a shootout in the first quarter, 31-35, the host doubled their efforts in the second quarter to control the curtain-raiser and bag its first win after losing its debut last week to Kalayaan, Inc. (87-96).

J.R. Barrios, who came in late in the first canto, anchored Shirley's second-quarter attack, scoring 12 points, including two triples, to turn a 4-point deficit to a big 67-51 halftime advantage. Dennis Vinas also helped out in the breakaway, drilling 7 of Shirley's first 9 points in the second canto and he went on to put the finishing touches on the win and foil Mobil's comeback bid, canning back-to-back triples in the fourth canto.

Mobil lost the match and dropped to a 1-1 record despite getting 41 points from Ronnel Gamboa, who sizzled for 15 points in the opening canto. Jun Estolas added 7 in the first frame, but was held to one field goal in the second-quarter slowdown, leaving Gamboa alone to carry the fight for Mobil, which was already depleted with Marvin Rabauliman and Gyles Ruluked missing the match.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shirley's Coffee Shop's Errol Peredo, center, is sandwiched by Mobil's Jun Estolas, left, and Fernando Muleta during the first quarter of their game in the Shirley's caging last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Gamboa kept leading Mobil's battle in the third period, as Estolas was limited to another one-field goal performance. However, Gamboa's one-man show was not enough for Vinas and company, as Shirley's retained the double-digit lead at the end of the third, 93-80.

Estolas went to work in the fourth canto and moved Mobil to within 5 points, but Shirley's would not be denied, as it gained enough cushion and drew timely baskets from Vinas and Sheen Metran in the fourth to save the win.

Shirley's had five players scoring in double figures and four more combining for 20 more. Four players logged double figures for Mobil, but the two others tallied only 4.

Mariana Resort 104, Saipan Apparel 76

In the second game, Mariana Resort (1-1) also made it past the century mark to rout Saipan Apparel (0-2).

After a tight first period, 20-19, Mariana Resort turned the heat in the second and third periods for the breakaway. Big man Glenn Aquino scored 12 of his 13 points in the second quarter to lift Mariana Resort to a 49-36 lead at the break.

The halftime lull then failed to cool off the hot hands of Mariana Resort players, who fired 35 points in the third canto, stretching the 13-point lead to a commanding 84-58 edge. The debuting Roy Ocanada teamed up with Darwin Barbo and Leo Galarse in the punishing third canto, scoring 9 points. Barbo added 8, while Galarse chipped in 6, as the trio alone outgunned the entire Saipan Apparel crew in that period, 23-22.

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 26

Sexy Boys take pole position in DLX caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Sexy Boys took the solo lead in Bracket B of the 2013 DLX Invitational Basketball League after prevailing over King's, 77-63, last Friday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The win was the Sexy Boys' second in as many games, putting the team ahead of Freestyle and GHD, which hold similar 2-1 slates. King's played its first game this season and dropped its debut after a lackluster offense in the last three quarters.

King's kept up with the Sexy Boys in the first period and even led, 19-17, behind the 8 straight points of Jaymark De Guzman, but ran out of offensive options in the ensuing periods to hand the easy victory to the Sexy Boys.

After a so-so performance in the opening frame, the Sexy Boys grabbed the driver's seat in the second canto with four of its players making three field goals apiece. The Sexy Boys' balanced offense produced 26 points against only 10 from the King's. De Guzman was held

See SEXY BOYS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Sexy Boys' Herbert Maranan, left, and King's' John Jugos battle for the ball during the second quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Friday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

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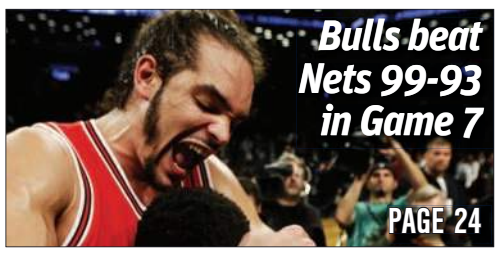

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Brewers clinch SML pennant

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Tan Holdings Brewers outlasted the Saipan Stevedore Northern Yankees in a tiebreak game, 12-10, to win the pennant in the 2013 Saipan Major League last Friday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

A two-run top of the ninth inning saved the Brewers from a monumental collapse against the Yankees, who managed to force a standoff after eight innings, 10-all, climbing back from a nine-run deficit, but fell short in the end.

Nokki Saralu broke the deadlock, as his base hit to center field drove in Jun Rabauliman. Saralu later reached off a Mike Pangelinan grounder in between the second and third base to give the Yankees more cushion, going into the final inning.

The Brewers went to hold off the Yankees at the bottom of the ninth with a steady fielding game. The Yankees leadoff batter Byron Kaipat was called for a 6-3 putout play, while Robert Bansil was caught stealing second, moving the Brewers one out away from securing the win. Designated hitter Greg Camacho was next at bat and with two strikes against only one ball, he opted to go for the swing and hit his target, but shortstop Ton Guerrero was quick to pick the ball up near second base and threw to first baseman Mike Iguel for the third and last out.

The Brewers and Yankees played a rubber match last weekend, as they finished the double-round robin regular season with identical 10-2 records. The Brewers then seemed headed for an easy win when they

See BREWERS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Tan Holdings Brewers pose for a group photo after eking out a 12-10 win over the Saipan Stevedore Northern Yankees in the battle for SML pennant last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

CNMI Sharks fall to Guam selection

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Guam's Storm Rosario loses the ball after colliding with a CNMI Sharks player during the third quarter of their game last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Sharks flirted with scoring opportunities in the fourth quarter before bowing to a selection of players from Guam's Budweiser Football League last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

The match between the CNMI Sharks and Guam players was the first American tackle football played here in about eight years and although the visitors beat the host team, 20-0, the home squad provided hundreds of spectators action-packed plays, particularly in the fourth period.

Midway in the fourth, Sharks quarterback Jerome Norita threw almost a 40-yard pass to receiver Vincent Agulto, who was running past the 10-yard

See CNMI on Page 26

Mayweather marvelous in easy win

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP BOXING WRITER

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The defense was back, just like it used to be. Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s dad was back, too, just like he used to be.

And Mayweather was a winner once again—just like he always is.

Mayweather fought as if he had never left the ring, coming back from a year's absence Saturday night to win a unanimous 12-round decision over Robert Guerrero in their welterweight title fight.

The game plan was defense, and Mayweather followed it perfectly. With his father directing from the corner after a 13-year absence, he dominated Guerrero in a performance not totally expected at the age of 36.

"I needed my father tonight," Mayweather said. "My defense was on point and he told me to stick with my defense and that the less you get hit the longer you last."

Mayweather was masterful at times, landing thudding right hands and bloodying Guerrero's face in a performance that mimicked some of his best fights. Mayweather hurt Guerrero on several occasions, including a series of right hands near the end of the eighth round that buckled Guerrero's knees.

All three judges scored the bout 117-111. The Associated Press had it 119-109.

"We did it again," Mayweather said after earning at least $32 million for his night's work. "I take my hat off to Robert Guerrero. He's a true warrior."

If it wasn't terribly pleasing to the crowd of 15,880, it was terribly effective. Mayweather made a fighter who hadn't lost

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AP
Floyd Mayweather Jr. lands a left jab against Robert Guerrero in the fourth round during a WBC welterweight title fight, Saturday, May 4, 2013, in Las Vegas.